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KAHN BREAKS SHAWE CAREER SCORING RECORD IN HILLTOPPER LOSS AT MILAN ***PAGE B1***

THE MADISON COURIER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024 — *Serving the Courier area since 1837* — NEWSSTAND • $1.25

Trimble fire taxation town hall meetings set for Monday

A town hall meeting to discuss the creation of Fire Taxation Districts to support volunteer fire fighting in Trimble County will be held on Monday, Feb. 26 at the Trimble County Public Library.

The meetings will be hosted by Magistrate Melissa Gibson-Cornish, Bedford Fire Chief Will McCoy, and Milton Fire Major Justin McQueary with sessions at two times at the library. The first session is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the large meeting room at the library and the second session is from 4 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. in the teen room at the library.

The purpose of the town hall is to present information on the proposed Bedford and Milton fire taxation districts and answer any questions residents have regarding the issue of providing fire protection to all Trimble County residents without the need for fire subscriptions.

McCoy and McQueary will have information on the cost of the proposal and computer models available to calculate cost to residents based on the valuation of their property.

"All residents have a right and a need to know how the proposed fire taxation district will affect them and we are here to provide answers to this proposal," said Gibson-Cornish.

The town hall is open to all county residents regardless of whether they live in the city or the county.

Mayor says 'more muscle' needed for fire department capital planning

BY BOB DEMAREE

The rising cost of fire safety and the city's aging fire fighting equipment is a challenge facing the city and Madison's fire departments Mayor Bob Courtney told members of the city's Board of Public Works and Safety on Tuesday.

"This is a big issue for the city of Madison. We don't talk about it often enough which is the age of the equipment that we're relying on from each of the companies to support fire safety and response across the city," said Courtney.

The issue came up after Madison Fire Chief Ken Washer detailed efforts by Madison's Fairplay Fire Company No. 1 — the oldest fire company in the state — to purchase a new engine to replace one that is 30 years old.

Washer said Fairplay Fire Company No. 1 will apply for a $500,000 grant to replace its aging Engine 1, manufactured in 1994, with a new engine that's expected to cost approximately $1.2 million from E-One, the same manufacturer as the current apparatus. Washer said he was approaching BPWS for its endorsement of the grant application because that approval is required by the city's fire department standard operating procedures.

Once funded and ordered, Washer said it would be another two years until the new apparatus is built and received with costs expected to continue to increase.

Washer said another aging apparataus that remain in service is the Seagrave Quint at Clifty Fire Company No. 6 that provides a 100-foot, rear-mount aerial. The truck, also about 30 years old was obtained by Clifty 6

SEE **MAYOR/PAGE A2**

Mayor Courtney makes the case for garbage rate increase

Thevenow unsuccessful in tabling issue for more study

BY MARK CAMPBELL

Mayor Bob Courtney says years of deferred maintenance and charging collection rates that do not cover the cost of services have left Madison's solid waste disposal service and transfer station in a hole that only a rate increase and acquisition of new equipment and technologies will fix.

Courtney laid out his plan on how to do that during a lengthy discussion and public hearing at Tuesday's meeting of Madison City Council where an energetic crowd of local residents — both for and against the mayor's proposed garbage collection rate increase — listened to and sometime argued with the mayor.

At the center of the proposal is about a $10 per month rate increase for residential garbage collection effective this year as well as 4% cost increases over the next several years and rate hikes for using the city's transfer station. But the proposal goes beyond just balancing the books on a waste collection program that has seen only three rate increases — all combined to total less than $5 a month — over the last 38 years while labor, vehicles, fuel, and landfill costs have increased annually. The last rate increase for service was more than a decade ago in 2013.

The most immediate concern is correcting a budget deficit that has existed in solid waste collection for several years — a municipal service Courtney said has been subsidized by $1 million in cash from the city's general and rainy day funds over that span. He wants to not only balance the garbage budget but modernize the city's collection equipment and processes, both physically and administratively, to make them safer and less time consuming for the employees operating the trucks, transfer station and doing the bookkeeping.

According to the mayor, garbage collection and the transfer station — the hilltop location where the city's trucks and others drop off household and some other waste to be trucked away by Rumpke to landfills — have been operating at a cost that exceeds charges while the city has been providing weekly garbage and recycling pickup as well as composting and cleaning up after major events like floods and storms without passing that cost on to residents.

He said the city is not only undercharging based on the cost of the service but also deferring maintenance to trucks and equipment and putting workers' health at risk but using out-dated and labor-intensive collection methods that have sent several workers to the hospital and/or made them miss work due to injury.

"We're long overdue for upgrades and if we can't get this done our options are limited to curtailing service or going to a third party source," Courtney said.

Third party service is an option where Madison could get entirely out of the garbage collection and transfer business by contracting

SEE **CASE/PAGE A7**

BPWS to make alley near park pedestrians only

BY BOB DEMAREE

Madison's Board of Public Works and Safety adopted a resolution on Tuesday restricting an alley near a new city park to pedestrian use only.

The alley, which runs east-west between Poplar Street and Central Avenue on the north property line of 202 West Vaughn Drive adjoins a new park and parking lot that is being development on the riverfront.

Tony Steinhardt III, the city's economic development director, said the request was to appropriately record plans that the board had previously reviewed that included converting the alley into a pedestrian path. He said the city has been working with the only affected homeowner along Central Avenue who will be provided an appropriate approach into his driveway off the alley.

Mayor Bob Courtney said there has not been vehicle use of the alley "for as long as I can remember," and Steinhardt noted 'It was basically mud" and will now connect the new park from Poplar Street to Central Avenue for access to Bicentennial Park. "We just wanted to make it official that's pedestrian traffic only," he said.

Joe Jenner, attorney for the city, clarified that the city is not vacating the alley.

"It's still going be an alley but only for pedestrian access," Steinhardt said.

The new park encompasses land east of Poplar Street across from the Shrewsbury-Windle House that was transferred to the city through an agreement with Historic Madison Foundation Inc. The land has roots in Madison's industrial past, where there was a planing mill in the 1800s and a button factory in the early 1900s. Later, it became a boat factory, owned by Birl Hill. After surviving a fire in 1946, another fire in 1953 destroyed the building. For decades, the land has sat unused, evolving into a small section of woods, bramble and debris that has now been cleared as the new park that is being developed and currently under construction.

Madison City Council adopted a resolution on Dec. 19, 2023 naming the site "Francis Costigan Park" although there have been multiple requests since to reconsider that naming and the matter is currently being reviewed by the city.

The park will include plazas honoring architect Francis Costigan, Madison's industrial past and George DeBaptiste who worked with the underground railroad during his time in Madison. It will also have a pollinator garden.

In other business:

- BPWS approved a closure of Jefferson Street between Main and Second streets from 11:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that will be dedicated in front of the Jefferson County Courthouse at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 29.

Larry Jones, chairman of the Jefferson County Veterans Council, said the ceremony will begin with American

SEE **PARK/PAGE A8**

Photos by Bob Demaree

The Madison riverfront area was abuzz with work Wednesday as workers labor at Madison's new Francis Costigan Park (foreground) and the Crystal Beach Aquatic Park (background). Contractors were constructing a retaining wall at Costigan and finishing concrete work at Crystal Beach. Both parks are expected to be completed by early summer.

Work continues on Madison's new Francis Costigan Park as contractors assembled a retaining wall on Wednesday. City officials have said the new park will be the crown jewel of a parks system that includes multiple public parks throughout the community and 11 parks along the Ohio River front from Kiwanis, Fireman's, Super Overlook, Lamplighter, Bicentennial, Jaycee, Crystal Beach, Lykos Dog and Heritage parks to the Hargan-Matthew Playground pictured in the background as well as the Madison campground and boat ramp.

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James Huffington
Michael Jent
Kevin Kennett
Bonnie Zearing
Glenna Sproessig

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Senate supports restricting governor's end-of-term powers

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The GOP-dominated Kentucky Senate endorsed a proposed constitutional change Wednesday to limit a governor's end-of-term pardon powers, reflecting the outrage still burning over pardons granted by the state's last Republican governor on his way out of office in 2019.

The measure seeks to amend the state's constitution to suspend a governor's ability to grant pardons or commute sentences in the 30 days before a gubernatorial election and the time between the election and inauguration. The restriction essentially amounts to two months of a governor's four-year term.

"This proposed amendment would ensure that a governor is accountable to the voters for his or her actions," state Sen. Chris McDaniel, the measure's lead sponsor, said in a statement after the Senate vote.

The proposal sailed to Senate passage on a 34-2 tally to advance to the House. Republicans have supermajorities in both chambers. If it wins House approval, the proposal would be placed on the November statewide ballot for voters to decide the issue.

The measure is meant to guarantee what happened at the end of former Gov. Matt Bevin's term never occurs again in the Bluegrass State. During his final weeks in office, Bevin issued more than 600 pardons and commutations — several of them stirring outrage from victims or their families, prosecutors and lawmakers. Bevin's actions came as he was preparing to leave office, having lost his reelection bid in 2019.

While presenting his bill Wednesday, McDaniel read newspaper headlines chronicling some of Bevin's pardons. The Courier Journal in Louisville earned a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of Bevin's actions.

McDaniel also put the spotlight on the case of Gregory Wilson, who was convicted decades ago for the rape and death of a woman. Wilson was sentenced to the death penalty, but Bevin commuted his sentence to life with the possibility of parole after 30 years. The state parole board recently decided that Wilson must serve out the remainder of his life sentence.

Another high-profile Bevin pardon was granted to Patrick Baker, whose family had political connections to the Republican governor, including hosting a fundraiser for him. Baker was pardoned for a 2014 drug robbery killing but later was convicted for the same slaying in federal court. He was sentenced to 42 years in prison. A federal appellate court upheld the conviction.

McDaniel has pushed for the same constitutional change to put limits on gubernatorial pardon powers since 2020, but he has so far been unable to get the measure through the entire legislature. On Wednesday, he called his proposal a "reasonable solution to a glaring hole in the commonwealth's constitution."

The proposal won bipartisan Senate support Wednesday.

Democratic state Sen. Reginald Thomas stressed there have been "no allegations, nor any innuendos of wrongdoing" regarding current Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's use of his pardon powers. Beshear defeated Bevin in 2019 and won reelection last year in one of the nation's most closely watched elections.

"This is a reaction to the previous governor, Gov. Bevin, and his obvious misuse of that pardon power," Thomas said.

The proposed restriction on gubernatorial pardon powers is competing with several other proposed constitutional amendments being considered by lawmakers for placement on Kentucky's November ballot.

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

LODGINGS

February 19, 2023

- Jamaul Lamont Bowlds, 20, Connersville, Indiana, on Jefferson County warrants for probation violation. Bond $2,000 cash.
- Jordan C. Hohmann, 28, Bedford, Kentucky, for Unlawful Possession or Use of a Legend Drug, a Level 6 felony. No bond.
- Marcus D. Scudder, 46, Madison, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; and Fraud-Possession of a Device top Interfere With a Drug/Alcohol Test, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond $1,000 cash.

February 20, 2023

- Alicia Anne Gonzalez, 31, Madison, on Jefferson County arrest warrants. Bond $2,500 cash.
- Delmar Jeremy Kent, 44, New Castle, Indiana, on a court-ordered sentencing for a probation violation. No bond.
- Bon David Romans, 29, Madison, on a Jefferson County bench warrant. Bond $1,500 cash.

February 21, 2023

- Darlene M. Bare, 53, Madison, on a Jefferson County warrant for failure to appear. Bond $5,000 cash.
- Duncan Eric Deeg, 63, North Vernon, Indiana, on a Jefferson County bench warrant. Bond $10,000 cash.
- Phillip Wayne Jones, 71, Deputy, Indiana, for Driving While Suspended-Prior Suspension Within 10 Years, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond.
- Jimmy D. White, 40, Austin, Indiana, on a Jefferson County arrest warrant for probation violation. Bond $5,000 cash.
- Joshua William Torrance, 38, Madison, on a Jefferson County arrest warrant. Bond $5,000 cash.
- Warren Eugene Brooks, 42, Madison, on parole warrant (unfounded). No bond.

February 22, 2023

- Trenton Michael Moore, 31, Madison, for Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon, a Level 4 felony; Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of a Legend Drug or Precursor, both Level 6 felonies; Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond a combined $3,700 cash.

JEFFERSON COUNTY SUPERIOR & CIRCUIT COURT

SENTENCINGS

February 20, 2024

- Brandi R. Cuneo, 35, Lawrenceburg, Indiana, to correct sentencing record to show defendant pleaded guilty to amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, with judgment later for revocation of probation. Ordered to serve 718 days at Indiana Department of Correction minus 104 days served but consecutive to felony conviction in Dearborn County.
- Shawn Robert Webster, 31, Henryville, Indiana, revocation of parole for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 365 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 168 days served and 197 days suspended to supervised probation.
- Kendall Marie Ulen, 35, Madison, for Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 30 days jail, fully executed, consecutive to separate felony conviction plus $239.50 in fees and court costs.
- Jessica Lynn Snell, 29, Madison, for violation of protective order for Invasion of Privacy. Sentenced to 365 days jail with credit for 6 days served and 359 days suspended to supervised probation. If no violations committed during first 180 days of probation, balance may convert to unsupervised probation.
- Stephen Scott Carter, 56, Madison, for Operating While Intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days jail with credit for 2 days served and 363 days suspended to supervised probation plus $539.50 in fees and court costs and loss of license for 30 days.
- Nicholas Smith, 28, Hanover, for Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail with credit for 18 days served and 347 days suspended to supervised probation plus $539.50 in fees and court costs and loss of license for 90 days. State agrees not to file petition to revoke probation.
- Isaac Robert Daily, 20, Scottsburg, Indiana, for Theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail, all suspended to supervised probation plus $339 in fees and court costs.
- Kristy Marie Henschen, 32, Madison, for Theft, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 365 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 72 days served and 293 days suspended to supervised probation consecutive to prior felony conviction plus $489 in fees and court costs.
- Isaac Robert Daily, 20, Scottsburg, Indiana, for Visiting a Common Nuisance, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail, all suspended to unsupervised probation plus $239 in fees and court costs.
- Patrick Allen Scholl, 69, Hanover, to an amended charge of Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days jail, all suspended to 180 days supervised probation plus $339.50 in fees and court costs and defendant to obtain a valid license during term of probation.
- Kristy Marie Henschen, 32, Madison, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; and Dealing in Marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the felony concurrent to 180 days jail on the misdemeanor, all suspended. Placed on 365 days supervised probation concurrent with prior sentence plus $289 in fees and court costs.

February 21, 2024

- Rhonda Marie Barnes, 56, Madison, to an amended charge of Theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 6 days jail, served, plus $239 in fees and court costs.
- Julia Renee Hill, 29, Vevay, Indiana, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; and Theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the felony, all suspended to supervised probation; and 180 days jail on the misdemeanor with credit for 8 days served and 172 days suspended to supervised probation plus $889 in fees and court costs.
- Evan Kenneth Harrell, 24, Madison, to an amended charge of Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated-First Offense, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 2 days jail, served, plus $389.50 in fees and court costs with driver's license suspended 30 days.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

JEFFERSON COUNTY

February 16, 2024

- Carla Vossler to Carla Vossler, 611 East Second Street, Madison (to clarify ownership).
- Teresa L. Adler and Betsy G. Adler (trust) to Lacy R. Adaway and Marcia Adaway, 404 Maple Hill Drive, Madison.
- Betty J. Doty to Clarke C. Potter and Ilyn Potter, 332 Fairmount Drive, Madison.
- John P. Patchin and Jeffrey D. Patchin to Michael Ernest Boodt, 1241 Michigan Road, Madison.

February 21, 2024

- Sue Ellen Cardinal and Charles W. Cardinal (deceased) to Sue Ellen Cardinal, 10753 North State Road 7, Dupont.
- Robert R. Long to Robert R. Long and Shannon M. Long, 306 Golf Ridge Lane, Madison.
- Luke Douglas Compton to Luke Douglas Compton and Kristina Compton, 1312 Monroe Drive, Madison.

MAYOR

FROM **PAGE A1**

from Walnut Fire Company No. 4 several years ago when that department upgraded equipment.

"We do need to do some serious capital planning for our fire safety because right now the burden is on the companies to fund-raise, apply for grants, to plan," said Courtney. "There's not enough money set aside through our budgets or through the public safety LIT (Local Income Tax) that's dedicated to fire safety to buy multi-million dollar pieces of equipment. Otherwise, you're saving for 20 years hoping that you can get additional useful life out of the equipment that you have. Plus, we need a water craft. We're here on the river, we have a port, and we have no river craft."

Washer said the city does set aside money for equipment annually but the amount being budgeted has remained the same for years while equipment costs have skyrocketed.

"It's remained the same for a long time and it does not even come close to keeping up with the leaps and bounds that the equipment costs us in today's world," Washer said.

Board member Karl Eaglin, a member of Walnut Fire Company No. 4, said that company has recently formed a committee to look toward purchasing a new apparatus.

"We're probably a year out as far as getting all the quotes together, and then two years out to receive the equipment," Eaglin said, adding that minimum estimates for a new tower truck to replace Walnut's current truck are $1.3 million to $1.4 million.

Washer said he thinks the cost will be more than that and is likely in the $1.8 million range. "That's with no accessories whatsoever," Washer said.

"That's scary numbers," said Eaglin.

"You look across the six companies that we have and all of the response they perform, and the training" that they must do, said Courtney. "This is a substantial capital investment that's needed for our fire safety, and we need to put more muscle behind it on the planning side."

In other business, the Board:

- Approved an amendment to the $25,000 dilapidated structures PACE grant for 111 East Fourth Street after Link Ludington sold the property to Ron and Marlene Bateman. The amendment transfers the grant to the Batemans to continue to fund the project. Also, a nine-month extension was approved with a new deadline of Dec. 14. "I'm glad there's a plan for this property," said Courtney. "Link started it, and Mr. and Mrs. Bateman will complete it."

Ludington had previously amended his application to move the structure, then rescinded that. Nicole Schell, the city's director of planning, said the Batemans are planning to keep the structure in the same location.

Courtney noted that rehabilitation of the structure is "another success story. Preserving history and eliminating blight all at the same time."

- Police Chief Shawn Scudder said the last day for Jeremey Perkins with Madison Police Department will be Thursday, Feb. 29. Perkins, a detective, former chief and assistant chief, is retiring.

Scudder said there are five positions open in the police department, and there is currently a search to fill them. "I don't know that we're going to fill those all right now. I don't want to just hire warm bodies to fill the positions. We want to get the best," so depending how the process goes, they may open it up again in a month "to step up our recruitment efforts, then we'll do that."

- Approved a water adjustment of $3,538.98 for the Scrub Board Laundromat, 811 West Main Street, for a leak that developed between July 26 and Aug. 28 last year that was discovered in a copper elbow in the concrete floor at the laundromat sometime in September. "It took a while to find it," said Lori Taylor, the owner, but it has now been repaired.
- Updated that a request to close Vaughn Drive for the Glacial Drainage Bike Race on Sunday, March 10, has been withdrawn after it was determined that the city's campground was a more suitable space for the race to begin and end.
- Approved a midpoint PACE award of $7,483.57 for 803 East Second Street to Mark and Lisa Farris for the installation of 12 windows. The total PACE grant is $14,967.14.

WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:21 a.m.
Sunset: 6:28 p.m.
Temperature: High 59, Low 38, Mean 47.5, Excess 8.5
Precipitation since last published: 0
Precipitation, February 2024: .69
Precipitation, 2024: 7.08
Barometer: 29.62, Falling
Markland Dam (lower gauge): 16.9 feet, Rising
Forecast: Saturday: Snow showers High 40/Low 24; Sunday: Mostly sunny High 59/Low 43; Monday: Partly cloudy High 67/Low 54; Tuesday: Showers High 67/Low 54.

BIRTHDAYS

Editor's Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have followup questions.

FEBRUARY 23
Andrew Forrester
Kristen Mundt
Carla Goins

FEBRUARY 24
Jackie Nale

FEBRUARY 25
Mary Beth Boone
Shawntale Tingle

FEBRUARY 26
David Wade Brent

FEBRUARY 27
Linda Cheatham
Rob Lafary

FEBRUARY 29
Harold Lakeman

LOTTERY

INDIANA

Hoosier Lotto: 2-9-12-16-27-37 (2/21). Next Estimated Jackpot: $5.2 million. Next Drawing (2/24).

Cash Five: 6-17-18-19-32 (2/21)

Cash 4 Life: 12-26-29-30-32 CB: 1 (2/21)

KENTUCKY

Cash Ball: 9-12-27-35 CB 16 (2/21)

Kentucky 5 Extra: 4-10-25-26-34 (2/21)

Lucky For Life: 20-21-29-43-45 LB: 13 (2/21)

MEGAMILLIONS: 5-45-55-58-68 MB: 7, MP 2 (2/20). Next Jackpot: $525 million. Next Drawing (2/23)

POWERBALL: 4-27-33-41-42 PB: 14, PP 2 (2/21). Next Estimated Jackpot: $376 million. Next Drawing (2/24)

POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY: 23-49-51-54-58 PB: 11 (2/21). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to $10 million. Next Drawing (2/24)

THE MADISON COURIER

(USPS 325000)
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

Published 2 days each week on Tuesday and Friday.

Periodical postage paid at Madison, IN and additional mailing offices.
Please send address changes to
The Madison Courier, 310 West St., Madison, IN 47250
812-265-3641

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9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
2:30 p.m. Friday for Tuesday issue
Noon Monday for Thursday issue
Noon Thursday for Saturday issue

VOL. 224 • ISSUE NO. 16

OBITUARIES

Teresa Lynn Dennison

Born 03-31-1959

Passed 02-15-2024

She was preceded in death by her father Kenneth Otis Huttsell; her mother Naomi Jo Huttsell; her son Jeremy Thomas Dennison, and one nephew Tyler Evan Lee Cooley.

She is survived by her brothers: Mickey Huttsell, Kenneth Scott Huttsell, David Allen Huttsell, and Keith Huttsell wife Rose Huttsell all of Hanover; her sisters: Sandy Cooley, husband Billy Cooley of Canaan, and Janet Huttsell of Hanover; her nephews: Bobby cooler, Shawn Cooley, Nicholas Huttsell — wife Brianna. Zane Huttsell, Jordan Huttsell; her niece: Morgan Huttsell; her great nephew: Toby Cooley, and her great nieces: Elayna Huttsell, and Everly Huttsell; her grandchildren: Tori Dennison, Jayce Dennison, Skyler Dennison, Alex Dennison, and her great grandson Liam Dennison.

There will be a celebration of life at New Prospect Baptist Church on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at noon.

DEATH NOTICES

James Leo Huffington, 79, of Madison, IN, died Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, at River Terrace Health Campus in downtown Madison. Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres in Madison, www.morgan-nay.com.

Michael "Mike" W. Jent, 65, of Deputy, IN, died Monday, Feb. 19, 2024, at Scott Memorial Health in Scottsburg, IN. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, at Adams Family Funeral Homes & Crematory in Crothersville, IN, with burial to follow at Uniontown Cemetery, www.adamsfuneralhomeonline.com.

Glenna Sue Jones Sproessig, 75, of Lexington, IN, died Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, at her home. Arrangements will be announced by the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres in Madison, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

Kevin Alan Kennett

Kevin Alan Kennett, age 69, of Holton, Indiana formerly of Madison entered this life on January 19, 1955 in Beech Grove, Indiana. He was the loving son of the late Willie Junior and Wanda Lee Sampson Kennett. Kentucky for two years and the past two years in Holton, Indiana with his sister. Kevin died on Monday, February 19, 2024, at 2:58 p.m. at the home of his sister in Holton, Indiana.

Kevin will be missed by his daughter, Erin Kennett and her companion, James Osborne of Shelbyville, KY; his sons, Chris Rowlison of Madison, IN, Zachary Kennett and his wife, Maria of Aurora, IN; his step son, Tom Kennett and his wife Sheila of Madison, IN; his step daughter, Tabitha Kennett of Madison, IN; his grandchildren, Drake, Kaley, Cheyenne, Brody, Max, Jolene, Logan and Eli; his great grandson, Jackson; his sisters, Patti Cranfill and her husband Steve of Holton, IN, Debbie Risk and her husband, Mike of Hanover, IN, Della Gilles and her husband Charlie of Madison, IN, Lillian "Olie" Gilles and her husband Donald of Madison, IN; his step father, Earl Wayne Furnish of Vevay, IN; several nieces, nephews and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his father, Willis Junior Kennett, died November 26, 1996 and his mother, Wanda Lee Sampson Kennett Furnish, died June 22, 2014.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 11 a.m., by Bro. Bob Hicks at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, Indiana. Interment will follow in the Grandview Memorial Gardens, 9306 North US 421 in Madison, Indiana.

Friends may visit Friday from 4 — 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Bonnie Sue Laughlin Zearing

Bonnie Sue Laughlin Zearing, age 73, of Lexington, Indiana entered this life on July 19, 1950 in Madison, Indiana, She was the loving daughter of the late Clarence B. "C.B." and Opal Faye Winslow Laughlin. She was raised her early life in Scottsburg and the family moved to Jefferson County. She attended school in Jefferson County and was of the Christian faith. On August 8, 1968 Bonnie was united in marriage to William Edward Zearing in Madison, Indiana. This happy union of 55 years was blessed with a son, William T. and a daughter, Maggie. She worked for 10 years in dietary at the Madison State Hospital and then the family resided in Granite, Oklahoma for two years and she worked for the Magnolia Nursing Home. She returned home and worked for the Madison Nursing home and for Hanover Health and Rehab. She loved going to flea markers, yard sales, collecting chicken memorabilia, cooking, her flowers, and being with her family. Bonnie died on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 2:39 a.m. at her home in Lexington, Indiana.

Bonnie will be missed by her loving husband of 55 years, William "Bill" Edward Zearing of Lexington, IN; her daughter, Maggie Morehouse and her husband, Scott of Lafayette, IN; her son, William T. "Billy" Zearing and his wife, Trina of Lexington, IN; her grandchildren, William, Adrian, Brandon, Amanda, Katie, Brittany, and Taylor; her great grandchildren, Jamie, Josie, Jace, Odyn, Elijah, Jaylen, Emma, Leslie, Carter, Kora, and Julian; her sisters, Mary Kay Thompson and her husband, Larry of Madison, IN, Deloris Ann Aldridge of Madison, IN; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Clarence B. "C.B." Laughlin; her mother, Opal Faye Winslow Laughlin; her sister, Janie Knox; her brothers, Timothy Wayne Laughlin, and Jack Thomas Laughlin; her great granddaughter, Layla Kian Young-O'Neal, and her mother in law, Margaret Ruth Zearing.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, February 23, 2024, at 3 p.m., by Pastor Brynen Chitwood at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, Indiana.

Friends may visit Friday from 1 — 3 p.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, Indiana.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bonnie Zearing Remembrance Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Hanover and Madison. Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Presentation to focus on tree-ring science on historical buildings

BY THE COURIER STAFF

A presentation, "Using tree rings to date the construction of historic buildings in the Mid-Ohio River Valley," will be held Monday, March 4, at Ivy Tech Community College Madison.

The program, scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. at the campus, 590 Ivy Tech Drive, is sponsored by the Big Oaks Conservation Society.

The presentation by Dr. Darrin Rubino, professor of Biology at Hanover College, will be broken into two parts: the basics of tree-ring science and the findings he and his collaborators have made in more than two decades of research.

In the first part of the talk, Rubino will explain how samples are taken from buildings, how the samples are prepared for analysis, and how analyzing tree-ring growth patterns enables structures to be precisely dated.

The second portion of the talk will focus on some of the interesting tree-ring dating results Rubino has obtained in the region. He will discuss how tree-ring dating has been used to solve local historic mysteries. Dates of structures including historically important and common buildings (barns, houses, etc.) will be discussed. The use of various timber species will also be explored. Rubino will also explain how your historic house or barn can be dated.

Rubino's research focuses on determining the construction date of historic structures by analyzing the tree-ring growth patterns found in their timbers. Along with his colleagues and student researchers, Rubino has been able to date timbers from more than 200 buildings (including barns, churches, houses, mills, and buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places) and create a vast database of accurately measured and dated tree rings reaching back to the mid-15th century.

Rubino has authored a textbook and many scientific articles on tree-ring analysis and is also interested in the ecology of invasive species and the disturbance ecology of forests.

The Big Oaks Conservation Society is the non-profit support group of the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Society members work closely with refuge staff to enhance public awareness, use, and appreciation for the natural and cultural assets unique to Big Oaks NWR.

Big Oaks NWR consists of approximately 50,000 acres on the former Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) located in Jennings, Ripley, and Jefferson Counties in southeastern Indiana. The refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and provides public use opportunities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, interpretation, and environmental education.

Wednesday Lenten Lunch Services to lead up to Easter

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Lenten Lunch Services are being held leading up to Easter on each Wednesday through March 27.

The lunches are sponsored by the Greater Madison Ministerial Association with a local church hosting a devotion from a visiting pastor and light lunch each Wednesday. All lunch services start at noon and last less than an hour.

Upcoming locations include:

- Hanover United Methodist Church on Feb. 28 with Randy Crutchfield of First Baptist Church preaching.
- Madison Presbyterian Church on March 6 with Steph Rolfe of First Christian Church preaching.
- St. John's United Church of Christ on March 13 with Richard Gianzero of Resurrection Lutheran Church preaching.
- Calvary Church on March 20 with Luke Richards of Hanover United Methodist Church preaching.
- First Baptist Church on March 27 with Mike Hamby of Calvary Church preaching.

In addition, Madison Presbyterian Church also will host a Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. on March 28, with Pastor Karen Vanderploeg preaching.

VISIT US ONLINE www.madisoncourier.com

HMI plans special tour recognizing women in March

BY THE COURIER STAFF

In honor of Women's History Month in March, Historic Madison Inc. will offer a special program featuring a tour of three sites involving multiple women who helped protect Madison's history.

"The Women Who Saved" will take place on Saturday, March 23 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

HMI noted that like many communities in America, some of the first people to step up and save buildings in Madison were women. In the early 20th century, many women began to protect, repurpose, and share Madison's amazing sites. Some are known statewide while others are barely known in Madison today.

During this program, HMI will explore their roles, history, and stories focusing on more than five women who once called Madison their home and passion.

The guided tour will start at Dr. Hutchings' Office, move to the Sullivan House, and finish at the Shrewsbury-Windle House. Tickets are $30 for adults, $25 for HMI Members, and free to students. Tickets will be available through March 16 on Eventbrite via the link: https://bit.ly/WomenWhoSaved. Proceeds from the event will benefit preservation efforts for Historic Madison Inc.'s many properties in downtown Madison. Call Jessica Spiess, HMI director of programs, for more information at 812-265-2967.

Farmers
Bank of Milton

Christmas is over, time to think about your taxes.
It's not too late to make your maximum allowed Individual Retirement Account contribution. When you do, you can deduct the contribution from your reportable income and delay paying taxes until you are in a lower tax bracket. PLUS when you retire, you'll have accumulated a nice little nest-egg for your golden years.

Locally owned and operated since 1902
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Crestwood—Madison, IN
800-826-5766
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--A better place to bank--

Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
STAR

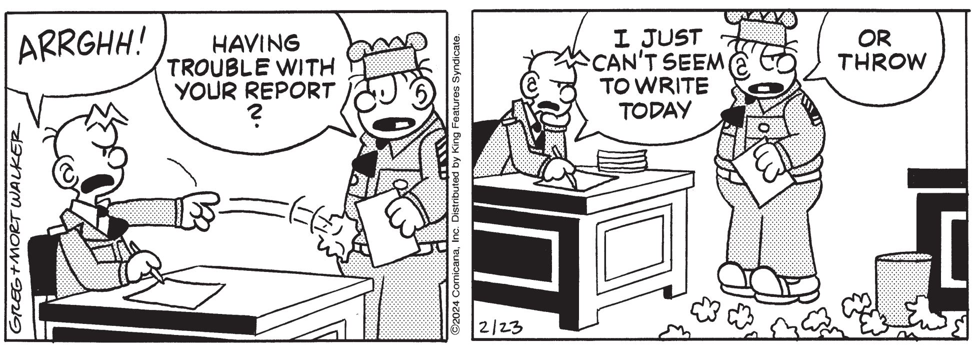
Did You Know?
You may be able to rollover your 401 K into a plan that will participate in stock market gains but not the losses.

Call John today to find out how! 812-273-1187

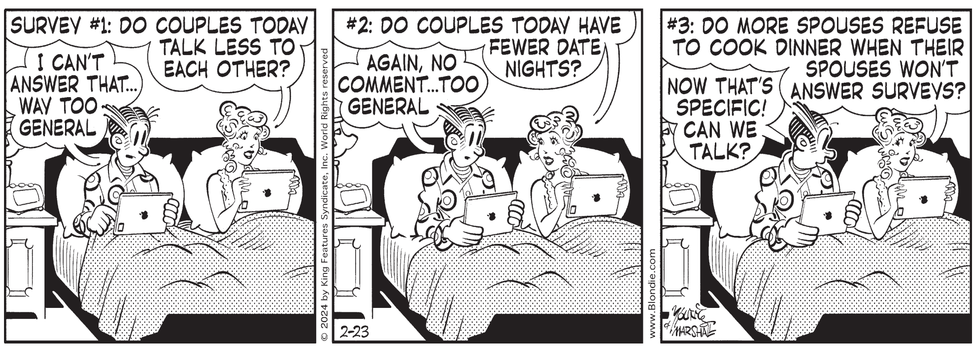
KASPER INSURANCE
www.kasperinsurance.com

220 Clifty Drive,
Suite D, Madison, IN

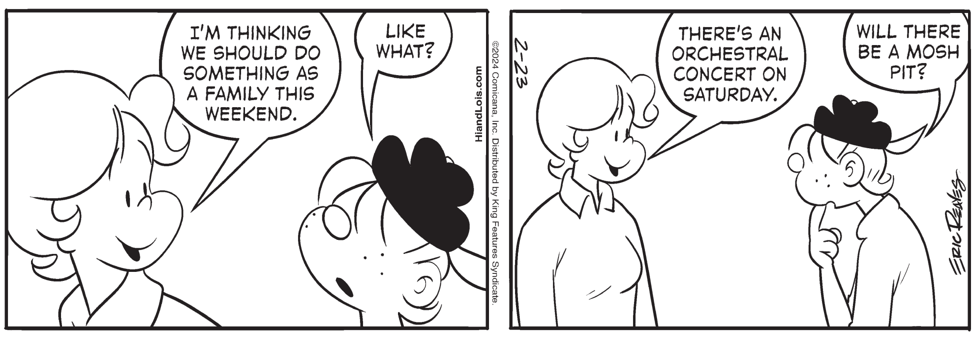
BEETLE BAILEY


ARRGHH!
HAVING TROUBLE WITH YOUR REPORT ?
GREG+MORT WALKER
©2024 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO WRITE TODAY
OR THROW
2/23

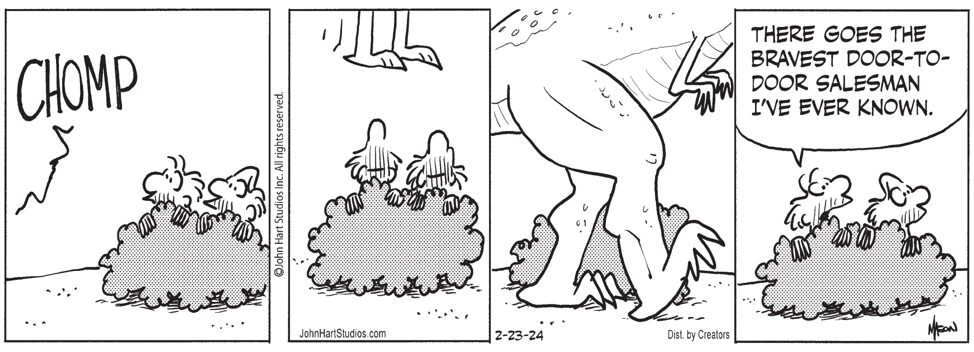
BLONDIE


SURVEY #1: DO COUPLES TODAY TALK LESS TO EACH OTHER?
I CAN'T ANSWER THAT... WAY TOO GENERAL
© 2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights reserved
#2: DO COUPLES TODAY HAVE FEWER DATE NIGHTS?
AGAIN, NO COMMENT...TOO GENERAL
2-23
www.Blondie.com
#3: DO MORE SPOUSES REFUSE TO COOK DINNER WHEN THEIR SPOUSES WON'T ANSWER SURVEYS?
NOW THAT'S SPECIFIC! CAN WE TALK?
YOUNG & MARSHALL

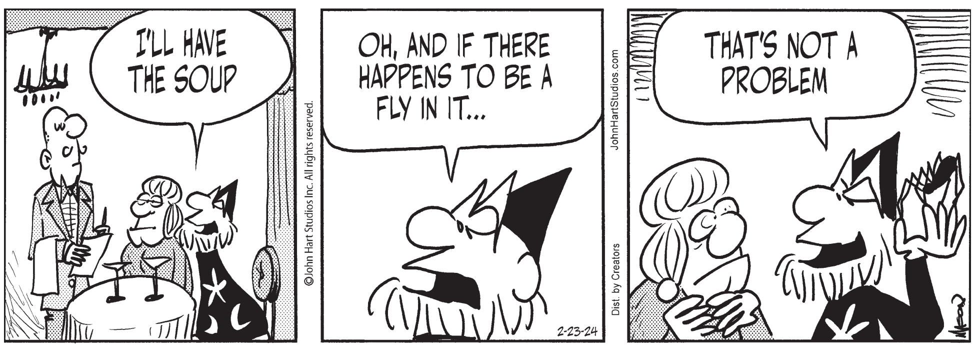
HI & LOIS


I'M THINKING WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING AS A FAMILY THIS WEEKEND.
LIKE WHAT?
HiandLois.com
©2024 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
2-23
THERE'S AN ORCHESTRAL CONCERT ON SATURDAY.
WILL THERE BE A MOSH PIT?
ERIC REAVES

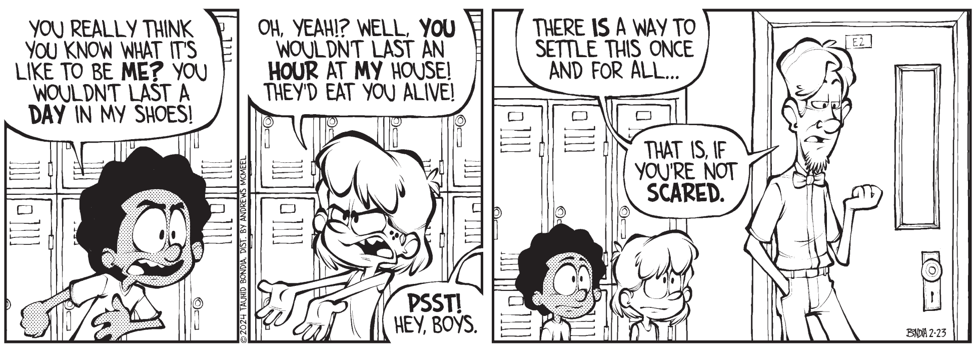
BC


CHOMP
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved.
JohnHartStudios.com
2-23-24
Dist. by Creators
THERE GOES THE BRAVEST DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.
MASON

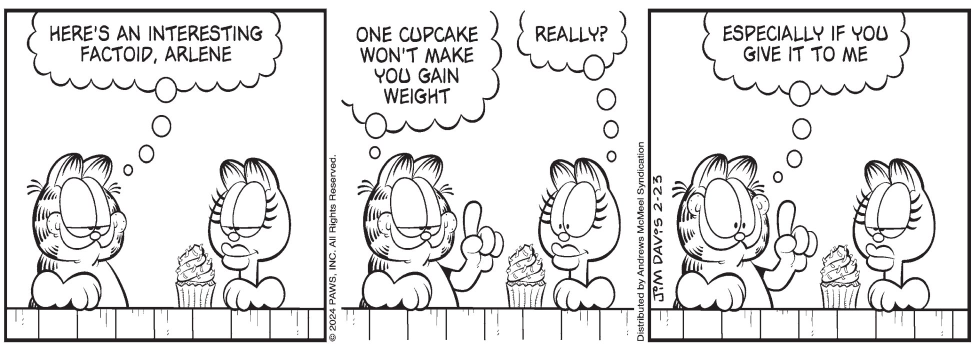
WIZARD OF ID


I'LL HAVE THE SOUP
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved.
OH, AND IF THERE HAPPENS TO BE A FLY IN IT...
2-23-24
JohnHartStudios.com
Dist. by Creators
THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM

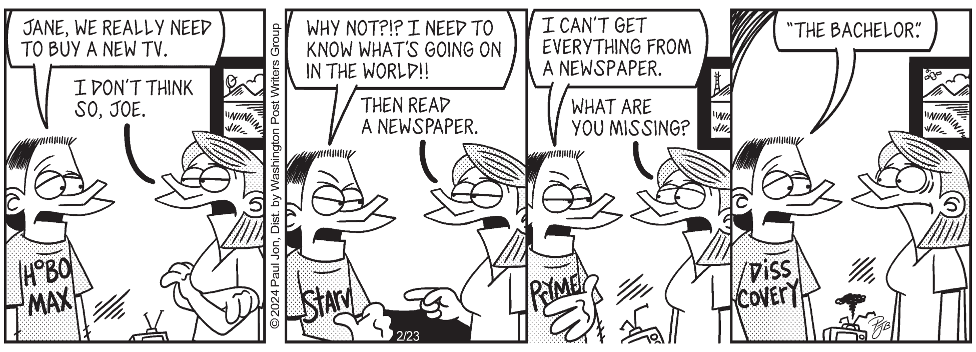
CRABGRASS


YOU REALLY THINK YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ME? YOU WOULDN'T LAST A DAY IN MY SHOES!
OH, YEAH!? WELL, YOU WOULDN'T LAST AN HOUR AT MY HOUSE! THEY'D EAT YOU ALIVE!
© 2024 TAUHID BONDIA. DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL
PSST! HEY, BOYS.
THERE IS A WAY TO SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL...
THAT IS, IF YOU'RE NOT SCARED.
E2
BONDIA 2-23

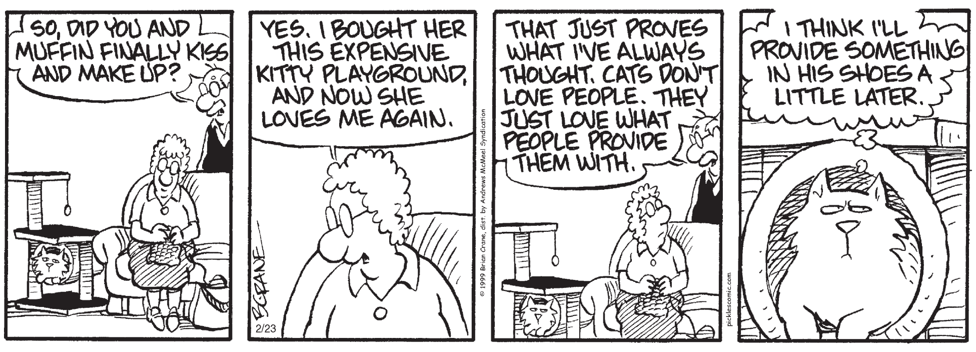
GARFIELD


HERE'S AN INTERESTING FACTOID, ARLENE
© 2024 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
ONE CUPCAKE WON'T MAKE YOU GAIN WEIGHT
REALLY?
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
JIM DAVIS 2-23
ESPECIALLY IF YOU GIVE IT TO ME

FORT KNOX

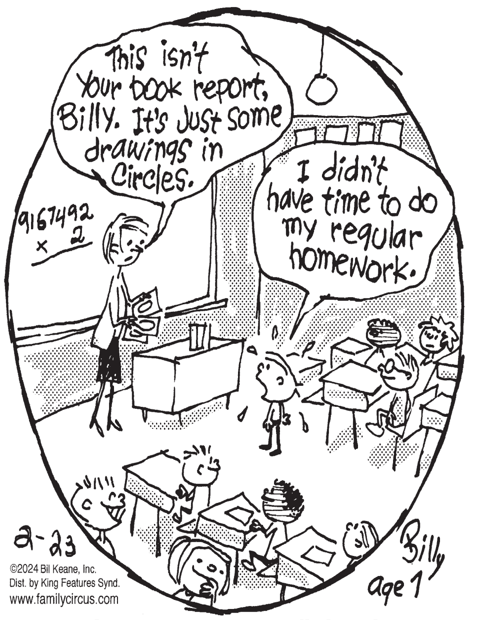

JANE, WE REALLY NEED TO BUY A NEW TV.
I DON'T THINK SO, JOE.
H°BO MAX
© 2024 Paul Jon. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group
WHY NOT?!? I NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD!!
THEN READ A NEWSPAPER.
STARV
2/23
I CAN'T GET EVERYTHING FROM A NEWSPAPER.
WHAT ARE YOU MISSING?
PRIME
"THE BACHELOR."
DISS COVERY

PICKLES


SO, DID YOU AND MUFFIN FINALLY KISS AND MAKE UP?
B. CRANE
2/23
YES. I BOUGHT HER THIS EXPENSIVE KITTY PLAYGROUND, AND NOW SHE LOVES ME AGAIN.
© 1999 Brian Crane, dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
THAT JUST PROVES WHAT I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT. CATS DON'T LOVE PEOPLE. THEY JUST LOVE WHAT PEOPLE PROVIDE THEM WITH.
picklescomic.com
I THINK I'LL PROVIDE SOMETHING IN HIS SHOES A LITTLE LATER.

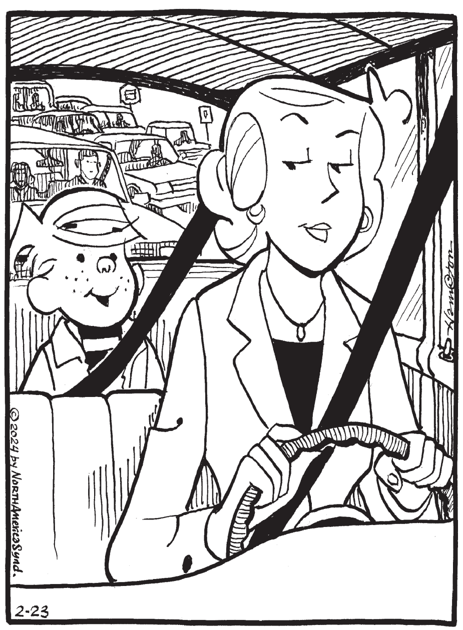
FAMILY CIRCUS

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane


This isn't your book report, Billy. It's just some drawings in Circles.
I didn't have time to do my regular homework.
9167492 × 2
2-23
Billy age 7
©2024 Bil Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

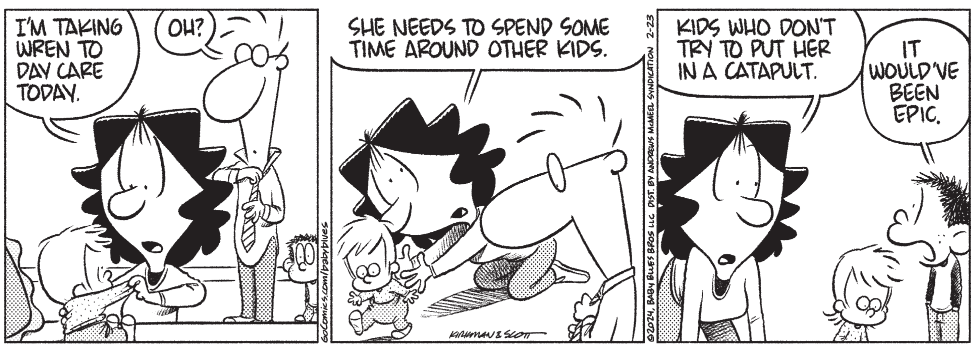
Billy reveals how filling in for Daddy affects his personal life.

DENNIS THE MENACE

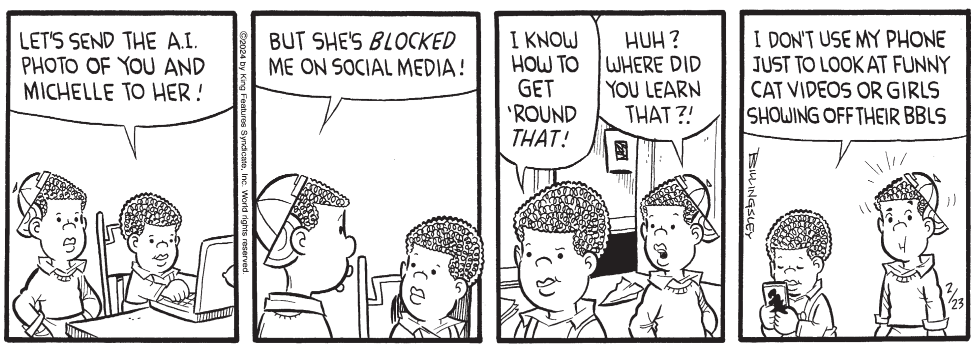

© 2024 by North America Synd.
2-23

"TRAFFIC JAM... TRAFFIC JELLY. WHATEVER YOU CALL IT SOUNDS GOOD TO ME."

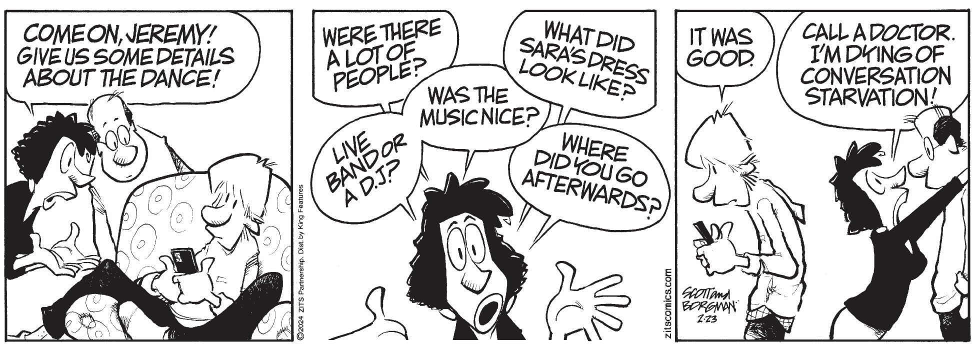
BABY BLUES


I'M TAKING WREN TO DAY CARE TODAY.
OH?
GoComics.com/babyblues
SHE NEEDS TO SPEND SOME TIME AROUND OTHER KIDS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
©2024, BABY BLUES BROS LLC. DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION 2-23
KIDS WHO DON'T TRY TO PUT HER IN A CATAPULT.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN EPIC.

CURTIS


LET'S SEND THE A.I. PHOTO OF YOU AND MICHELLE TO HER!
©2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
BUT SHE'S BLOCKED ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
I KNOW HOW TO GET 'ROUND THAT!
HUH? WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT?!
I DON'T USE MY PHONE JUST TO LOOK AT FUNNY CAT VIDEOS OR GIRLS SHOWING OFF THEIR BBLS
BILLINGSLEY
2/23

ZITS


COME ON, JEREMY! GIVE US SOME DETAILS ABOUT THE DANCE!
©2024 ZITS Partnership. Dist. by King Features
WERE THERE A LOT OF PEOPLE?
WHAT DID SARA'S DRESS LOOK LIKE?
WAS THE MUSIC NICE?
LIVE BAND OR A D.J.?
WHERE DID YOU GO AFTERWARDS?
IT WAS GOOD.
CALL A DOCTOR. I'M DYING OF CONVERSATION STARVATION!
zitscomics.com
SCOTT AND BORGMAN 2-23

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 23, 2007, a Mississippi grand jury refused to bring any new charges in the 1955 slaying of Emmett Till, the Black teenager who was beaten and shot after being accused of whistling at a white woman, declining to indict the woman, Carolyn Bryant Donham, for manslaughter.

On this date:

In 1685, composer George Frideric Handel was born in present-day Germany.

In 1822, Boston was granted a charter to incorporate as a city.

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington to take office, following word of a possible assassination plot in Baltimore.

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an agreement with Cuba to lease the area around Guantanamo Bay to the United States.

In 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags (the second flag-raising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph.)

In 1954, the first mass inoculation of schoolchildren against polio using the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh as some 5,000 students were vaccinated.

In 1998, 42 people were killed, some 2,600 homes and businesses damaged or destroyed, by tornadoes in central Florida.

In 2011, in a major policy reversal, the Obama administration said it would no longer defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law banning recognition of same-sex marriage.

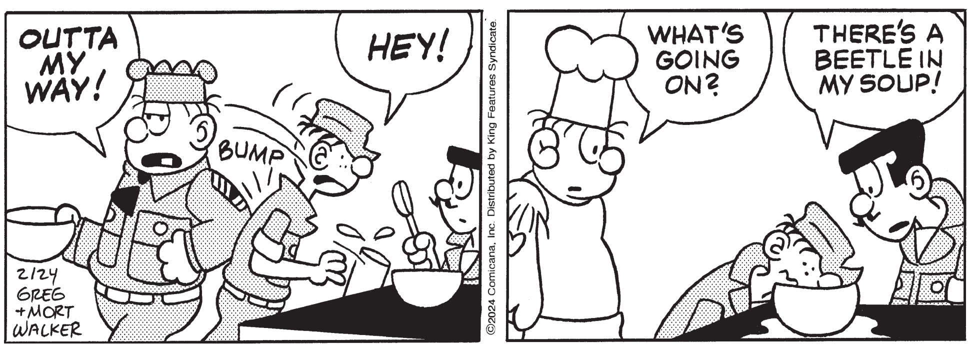
In 2020, Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was fatally shot on a residential Georgia street; a white father and son had armed themselves and pursued him after seeing him running through their neighborhood. (Greg and Travis McMichael and neighbor William "Roddie" Bryan were convicted of murder, aggravated assault and other charges and were sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2021, golfer Tiger Woods was seriously injured when his SUV crashed into a median and rolled over several times on a steep road in suburban Los Angeles.

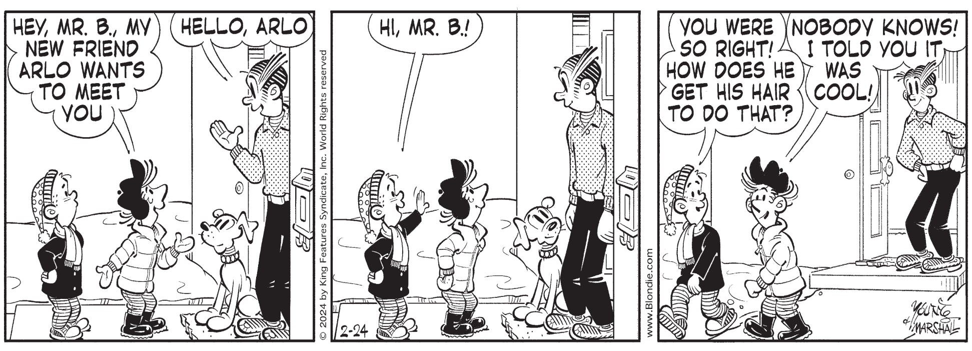
In 2023, a federal judge handed singer R. Kelly a 20-year prison sentence for his convictions of child pornography and the enticement of minors for sex but said he would serve nearly all of the sentence simultaneously with a 30-year sentence imposed a year earlier on racketeering charges.

Today's birthdays: Football Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff is 81. Author John Sandford is 80. Actor Patricia Richardson is 73. Former NFL player Ed "Too Tall" Jones is 73. Rock musician Brad Whitford (Aerosmith) is 72. Singer Howard Jones is 69. Rock musician Michael Wilton (Queensryche) is 62. Country singer Dusty Drake is 60. Actor Kristin Davis is 59. Former tennis player Helena Sukova is 59. Actor Marc Price is 56. TV personality/businessman Daymond John (TV: "Shark Tank") is 55. Actor Niecy Nash is 54. Rock musician Jeff Beres (Sister Hazel) is 53. Country singer Steve Holy is 52. Rock musician Lasse Johansson (The Cardigans) is 51. Film and theater composer Robert Lopez is 49. Actor Kelly Macdonald is 48. Rapper Residente is 46. Actor Josh Gad is 43. Actor Emily Blunt is 41. Actor Aziz Ansari is 41. Actor Tye White (TV: "Greenleaf") is 38. Actor Dakota Fanning is 30.

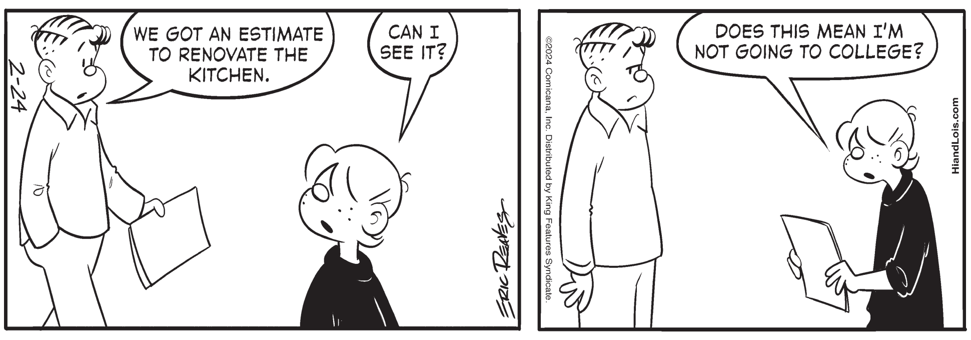
BEETLE BAILEY


OUTTA MY WAY!
BUMP
HEY!
2/24 GREG + MORT WALKER
©2024 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THERE'S A BEETLE IN MY SOUP!

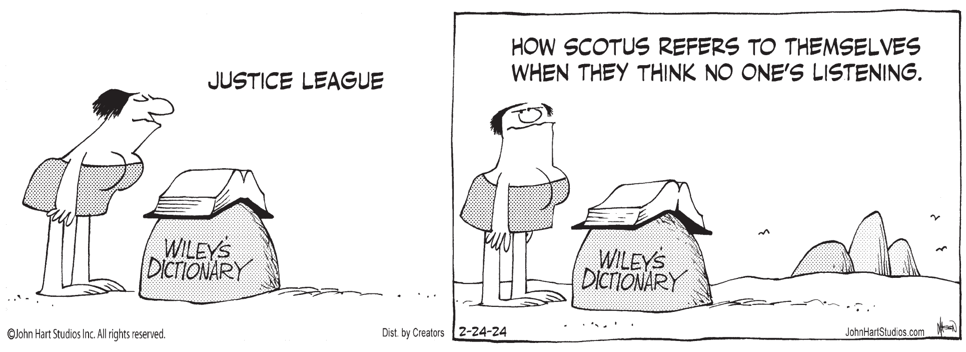
BLONDIE


HEY, MR. B., MY NEW FRIEND ARLO WANTS TO MEET YOU
HELLO, ARLO
© 2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights reserved
HI, MR. B.!
2-24
www.Blondie.com
YOU WERE SO RIGHT! HOW DOES HE GET HIS HAIR TO DO THAT?
NOBODY KNOWS! I TOLD YOU IT WAS COOL!
YOUNG MARSHALL

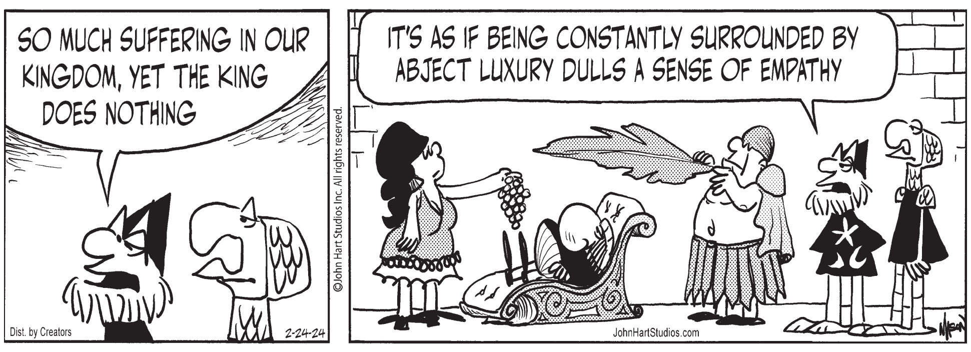
HI & LOIS


2-24
WE GOT AN ESTIMATE TO RENOVATE THE KITCHEN.
CAN I SEE IT?
ERIC REAVES
©2024 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
DOES THIS MEAN I'M NOT GOING TO COLLEGE?
HiandLois.com

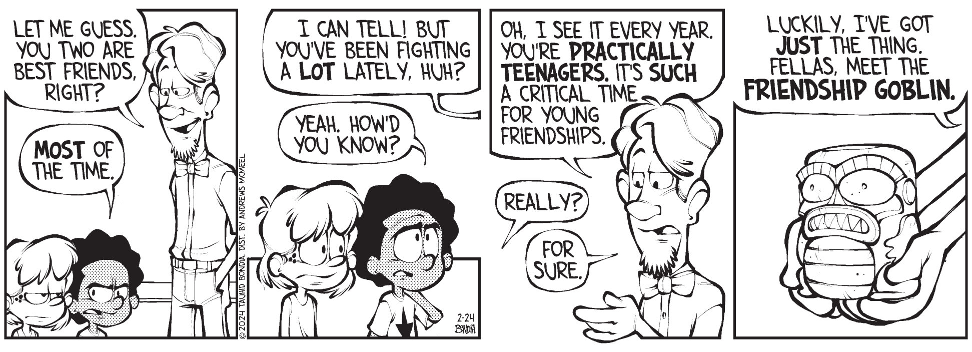
BC


JUSTICE LEAGUE
WILEY'S DICTIONARY
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved.
Dist. by Creators
HOW SCOTUS REFERS TO THEMSELVES WHEN THEY THINK NO ONE'S LISTENING.
WILEY'S DICTIONARY
2-24-24
JohnHartStudios.com

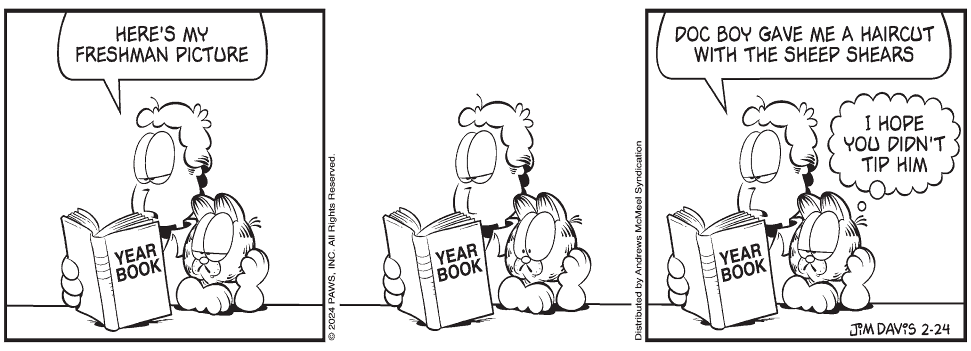
WIZARD OF ID


SO MUCH SUFFERING IN OUR KINGDOM, YET THE KING DOES NOTHING
Dist. by Creators
2-24-24
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved.
IT'S AS IF BEING CONSTANTLY SURROUNDED BY ABJECT LUXURY DULLS A SENSE OF EMPATHY
JohnHartStudios.com

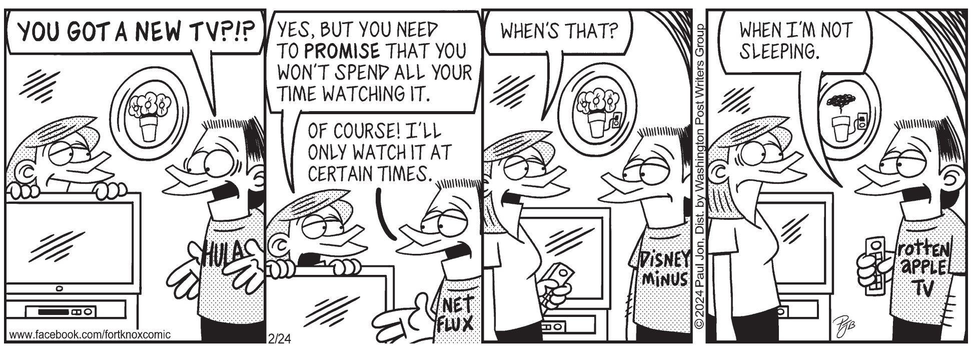
CRABGRASS


LET ME GUESS. YOU TWO ARE BEST FRIENDS, RIGHT?
MOST OF THE TIME.
© 2024 TAUHID BONDIA. DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL
I CAN TELL! BUT YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING A LOT LATELY, HUH?
YEAH. HOW'D YOU KNOW?
2-24 BONDIA
OH, I SEE IT EVERY YEAR. YOU'RE PRACTICALLY TEENAGERS. IT'S SUCH A CRITICAL TIME FOR YOUNG FRIENDSHIPS.
REALLY?
FOR SURE.
LUCKILY, I'VE GOT JUST THE THING. FELLAS, MEET THE FRIENDSHIP GOBLIN.

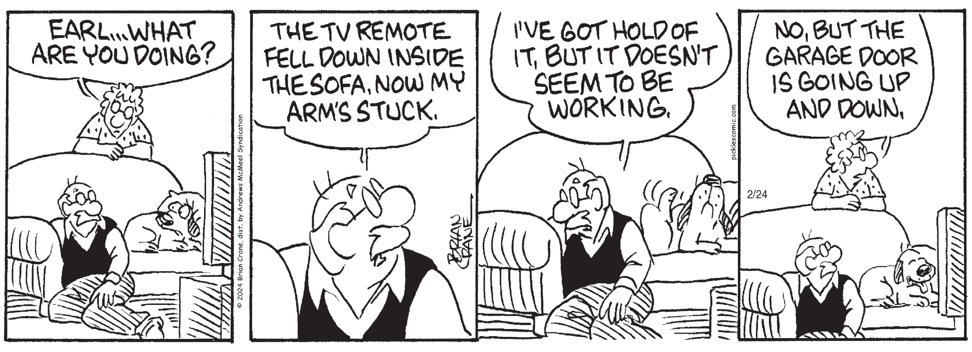
GARFIELD


HERE'S MY FRESHMAN PICTURE
YEAR BOOK
© 2024 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
YEAR BOOK
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
DOC BOY GAVE ME A HAIRCUT WITH THE SHEEP SHEARS
I HOPE YOU DIDN'T TIP HIM
YEAR BOOK
JIM DAVIS 2-24

FORT KNOX

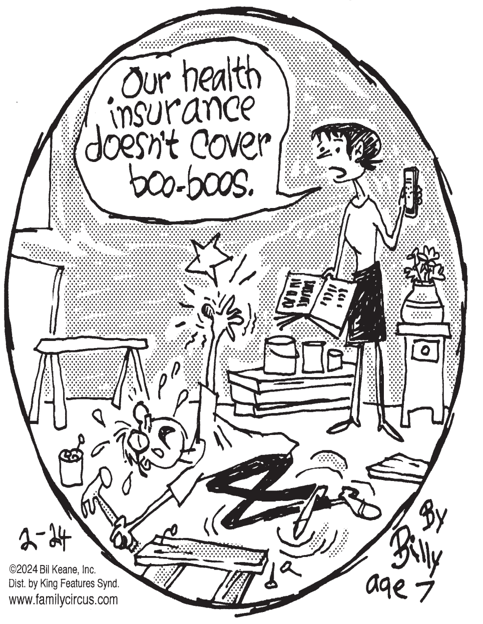

YOU GOT A NEW TV?!?
HULA
www.facebook.com/fortknoxcomic
YES, BUT YOU NEED TO PROMISE THAT YOU WON'T SPEND ALL YOUR TIME WATCHING IT.
OF COURSE! I'LL ONLY WATCH IT AT CERTAIN TIMES.
NET FLUX
2/24
WHEN'S THAT?
DISNEY MINUS
©2024 Paul Jon. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group
WHEN I'M NOT SLEEPING.
rotten apple TV

PICKLES


EARL...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
© 2024 Brian Crane, dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
THE TV REMOTE FELL DOWN INSIDE THE SOFA, NOW MY ARM'S STUCK.
BRIAN CRANE
I'VE GOT HOLD OF IT, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING.
picklescomic.com
NO, BUT THE GARAGE DOOR IS GOING UP AND DOWN.
2/24

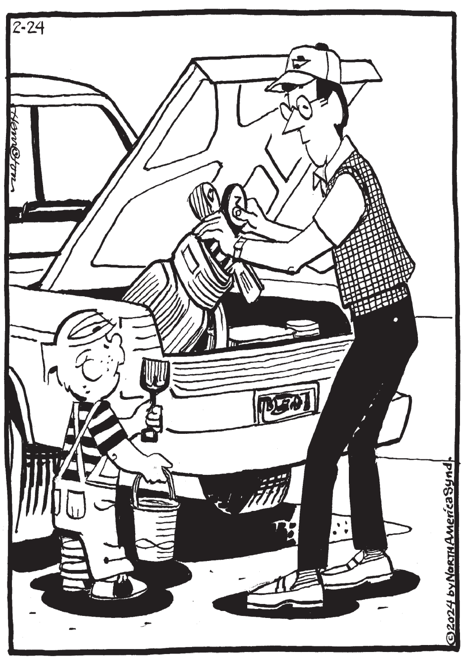
FAMILY CIRCUS

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane


Our health insurance doesn't cover boo-boos.
2-24
By Billy age 7
©2024 Bil Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

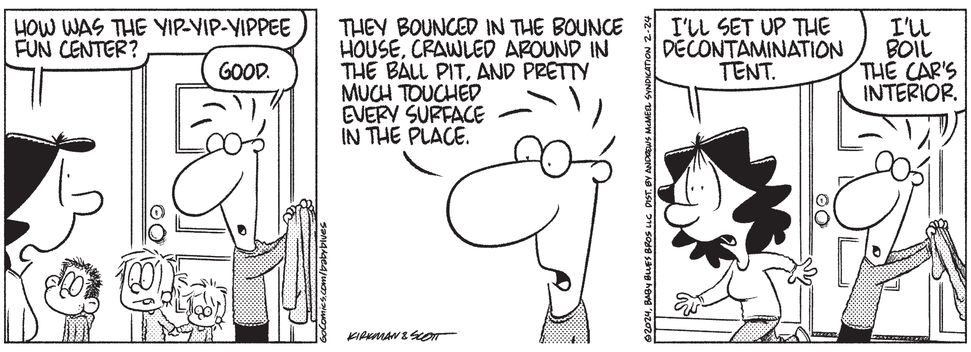
Little Billy turns in another revealing look at Daddy-turned-carpenter.

DENNIS THE MENACE

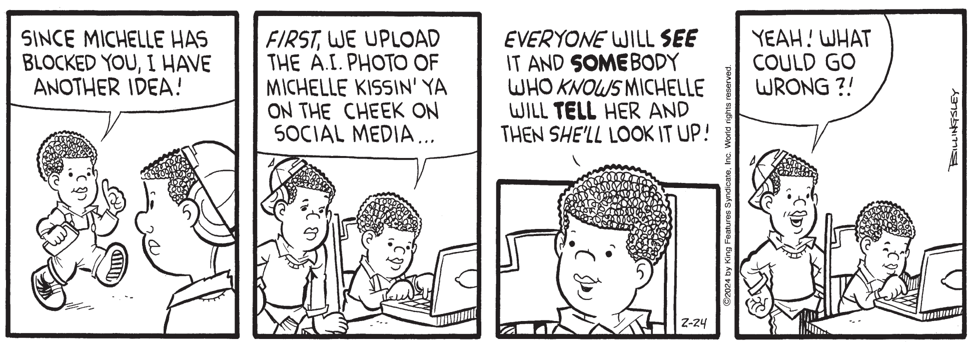

2-24
©2024 by North America Synd.

" BUT I AM READY... READY FOR WHEN YOU PLAY EVERY 'SAND BOX' ON THE COURSE!"

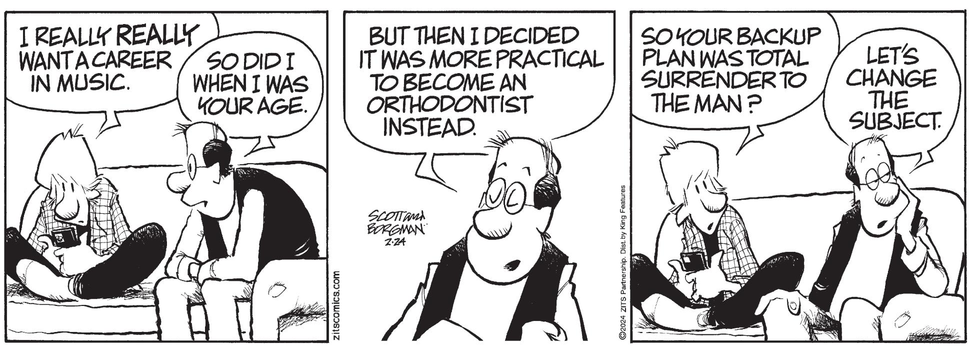
BABY BLUES


HOW WAS THE YIP-YIP-YIPPEE FUN CENTER?
GOOD.
GoComics.com/babyblues
THEY BOUNCED IN THE BOUNCE HOUSE, CRAWLED AROUND IN THE BALL PIT, AND PRETTY MUCH TOUCHED EVERY SURFACE IN THE PLACE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
©2024, BABY BLUES BROS LLC. DIST. BY ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATION 2-24
I'LL SET UP THE DECONTAMINATION TENT.
I'LL BOIL THE CAR'S INTERIOR.

CURTIS


SINCE MICHELLE HAS BLOCKED YOU, I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA!
FIRST, WE UPLOAD THE A.I. PHOTO OF MICHELLE KISSIN' YA ON THE CHEEK ON SOCIAL MEDIA...
EVERYONE WILL SEE IT AND SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS MICHELLE WILL TELL HER AND THEN SHE'LL LOOK IT UP!
2-24
©2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
YEAH! WHAT COULD GO WRONG?!
BILLINGSLEY

ZITS


I REALLY REALLY WANT A CAREER IN MUSIC.
SO DID I WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE.
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BUT THEN I DECIDED IT WAS MORE PRACTICAL TO BECOME AN ORTHODONTIST INSTEAD.
SCOTT AND BORGMAN 2-24
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SO YOUR BACKUP PLAN WAS TOTAL SURRENDER TO THE MAN?
LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 24, 1942, the SS Struma, a charter ship attempting to carry nearly 800 Jewish refugees from Romania to British-mandated Palestine, was torpedoed by a Soviet submarine in the Black Sea; all but one of the refugees perished.

On this date:

In 1803, in its Marbury v. Madison decision, the Supreme Court established judicial review of the constitutionality of statutes.

In 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson by a vote of 126-47 following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

In 1981, a jury in White Plains, New York, found Jean Harris guilty of second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower. (Sentenced to 15 years to life in prison, Harris was granted clemency by New York Gov. Mario Cuomo in December 1992.)

In 1986, the Supreme Court struck down, 6-3, an Indianapolis ordinance that would have allowed women injured by someone who had seen or read pornographic material to sue the maker or seller of that material.

In 1988, in a ruling that expanded legal protections for parody and satire, the Supreme Court unanimously overturned a $150,000 award that the Rev. Jerry Falwell had won against Hustler magazine and its publisher, Larry Flynt.

In 1989, a state funeral was held in Japan for Emperor Hirohito, who had died the month before at age 87.

In 1993, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney resigned after more than eight years in office.

In 2002, the Salt Lake City Olympics came to a close, the same day Canada won its first hockey gold in 50 years and three cross-country skiers were thrown out of the games for using a performance-enhancing drug.

In 2008, Cuba's parliament named Raul Castro president, ending nearly 50 years of rule by his brother Fidel.

In 2011, Discovery, the world's most traveled spaceship, thundered into orbit for the final time, heading toward the International Space Station on a journey marking the beginning of the end of the shuttle era.

In 2012, Jan Berenstain who with her husband, Stan, wrote and illustrated the Berenstain Bears books, died in Solebury Township, Pennsylvania at age 88.

In 2015, the Justice Department announced that George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot Trayvon Martin in a 2012 confrontation, would not face federal charges.

In 2020, former Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein was convicted in New York on charges of rape and sexual assault involving two women. (Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in prison.)

In 2022, Russia began a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, launching airstrikes on cities and military bases and sending troops and tanks from multiple directions.

Today's birthdays: Actor-singer Dominic Chianese is 93. Singer Joanie Sommers is 83. Actor Jenny O'Hara is 82. Former Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., is 82. Actor Barry Bostwick is 79. Actor Edward James Olmos is 77. Singer-writer-producer Rupert Holmes is 77. Rock singer-musician George Thorogood is 74. Actor Debra Jo Rupp is 73. Actor Helen Shaver is 73. News anchor Paula Zahn is 68. Baseball Hall of Famer Eddie Murray is 68. Country singer Sammy Kershaw is 66. Actor Mark Moses is 66. Actor Beth Broderick is 65. Actor Emilio Rivera is 63. Singer Michelle Shocked is 62. Movie director Todd Field is 60. Actor Billy Zane is 58. Actor Bonnie Somerville is 50. Jazz musician Jimmy Greene is 49. Former boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. is 47. Rock musician Matt McGinley (Gym Class Heroes) is 41. Actor Wilson Bethel is 40. Actor Alexander Koch is 36. Actor Daniel Kaluuya (Film: "Get Out") is 35. Actor O'Shea Jackson Jr. is 33.

Hanover hires Williams as enforcement officer

BY BOB DEMAREE

With the city's enforcement workload increasing, Hanover Town Council approved the hiring of an enforcement officer at its meeting Tuesday.

Don Williams, a retired police officer from Florida, was hired for the position. Williams lives in Hanover and is originally been from this area.

Town council member Debbie Kroger said enforcement work is "starting to pick up" and Williams can help with the ordinances and issuing building permits. "We need to start going through our ordinances because we have found some issues with our ordinances that need to be updated," she said.

The position is part-time at 20 to 24 hours weekly with the job only for ordinance enforcement and issuing building permits at a pay rate of $16.98 per hour. "He said he's very much interested and would love to have the job," she said.

In other business:

• The long wait for a new cell tower to be constructed on property at the town's maintenance building is over and work has begun. A conditional use permit was granted by the town's Board of Zoning Appeals in October of 2022 for the cell tower, which the anchor tenant will be AT&T.

TowerCo, which builds and manages wireless communication facilities, has made donations to the town's Go Green committee and beautification committee, both for $10,000, as part of the agreement with the town for installing the cell phone tower.

A grant of easement was granted to Duke Energy for electric and lines at the maintenance building that's needed for the new tower.

• Approved a new one-year lease agreement with New Hope Services, which manages the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program that occupies space at the Hanover Community Building. In December, the town had approved increasing the $1,500 monthly rent to $2,500 per month but a counter offer of $1,800 a month for this year was accepted.

• Town council member Kenny Garrett said the storage facility/restroom buildings at the park's ball fields are complete with the exception of painting on the outside and arrival of new toilets for the restrooms. "Everything on west side of the park will hopefully be done within the next month," Garrett said. Next, will be work on restroom/storage facility at the amphitheater and paving the new walking path.

• A work session for updating the employee handbook is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 7. Kroger suggested hiring a firm to review the updates to be certain they are in compliance with state law, noting a quote of $2,500 had been given and could be considered if there's money in the budget.

• Approved $5,314.97 for Wi-Fi throughout the Hanover Community Park from MicroDome with $9.50 monthly fees for each of two different park locations for three years and payment for all three years totaling $684. The Wi-Fi will be free to the public. The funds will be paid by the Hanover Police Department's security funds from American Rescue Plan monies.

• Approved payment of $59,319 to Wessler Engineering for town/Hanover College sewer project.

Innkeeper's tax increase legislation receives State House OK

BY BOB DEMAREE

Legislation that would increase Jefferson County's Inkeeper's tax from 5% to 8% received Indiana House of Representatives approval Thursday after receiving endorsement by the State Senate last month.

Visit Madison Inc. Executive Director Andrew Forrester provided an update on the effort to increase the innkeeper's tax at Monday's Jefferson County Board of Tourism (JCBT) meeting. He said he has twice visited the Indiana General Assembly to encourage passage of Senate Bill 238. "We've got really good receptions so far," Forrester said.

Forrester and Madison City Councilman Jim Bartlett, who is a member of both JCBT and Visit Madison Inc., was with him for meeting with state senators JCBT President Trevor Crafton joined him in meetings with House members.

The bill passed out of the Senate on Jan. 29 by a vote of 38-11 and was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee on Feb. 6. That committee on Wednesday sent it on to the House by a 17-3 vote while adding amendments to include Elkhart, Howard and Knox counties in the innkeeper's tax increase. On Thursday, the legislation passed the House of Representatives, and will now go to conference committee between the House and Senate.

After receiving legislative approval, an innkeeper's tax increase must still be adopted by the Jefferson County Council.

The Senate bill was sponsored by State Senators Randy Maxwell and Chris Garten while State Representatives Alex Zimmerman, Michael Karickhoff, Joanna King and Doug Miller are sponsoring the bill in the House of Representatives.

In other business:

• Charlie Rohling, president the Madison Music Movement, provided an update on the $70,500 in grant funding that organization received last year from JCBT, noting that it not only allowed for more effective marketing but the hiring of Micheal Fortunato as executive director to provide a staff member "devoted to pushing that agenda forward" and "put boots on the ground and get things done."

Fortunato, hired as executive director one month ago, said there are four main objectives for Madison Music Movement. One is to continue promoting the city as Indiana's Music City and doing that with new content, new merchandising and new strategies. Second, he said, "We are going to continue to fill the pipeline with up and coming musicians." Third, "We will do whatever we can to promote and encourage large capacity venues." Fourth is supporting music and performance diversity. "Not just have similar kinds of bands. Have a whole diversity for a whole range of customer basis because our tourists don't fall into one category."

• Treasurer David Bramer said innkeeper's tax collections for January were $29,268.29, more than $10,000 less than the $41,641.73 collected in January of last year. There was speculation for the reason, whether some lodging facilities may be behind in making payment or if there were fewer visitors.

Forrester said he has not yet compared the innkeeper's tax numbers to hotel occupancy numbers, but will be investigating that and other potential contributing factors.

• Reelected the same officers for 2024 as served in 2023 with Crafton as president, Victoria Perry vice president, Bramer treasurer and Wendy Lawson secretary.

• Issued a reminder that applications for partnership grants from JCBT are due Monday, March 4. JCBT will have a special meeting Monday, March 18, to receive presentations from the applicants with the announcement on the awards coming at the Monday, March 25 meeting.

American Queen Voyages shutting down business

No riverboat stops at Madison as AQV shuts down

BY BOB DEMAREE

American Queen Voyages announced Tuesday on its website that it is shutting down business, and all future cruises have been canceled with refunds to be issued.

American Queen steamboats have been docking in Madison for many years, and in November of 2022, the city signed a five-year docking agreement for a minimum of 10 day visits per calendar year beginning last year.

"The agreement called for two $25,000 payments, 2023 and 2024 to support capital improvements at the docking area," Madison Mayor Bob Courtney said. "Neither payments were made. It is still owed but the chance of collecting it now is low given the bankruptcy filing."

Visit Madison Inc. Executive Director Andrew Forrester said VMI is "still waiting on payments" from AQV for reimbursement. He said AQV had a contract to pay VMI $10 per passenger to procure all the sites that the boat's guests visit while in Madison — places such as Historic Madison Inc. properties and the Lanier Mansion. VMI would then divide that $10 per passenger fee among each of the sites.

"When the year ended and we still hadn't got paid, I didn't feel it was right to leave all those other non-profits holding the bag on it, so we went ahead and paid them," said Forrester.

Forrester said even though he was still concerned about getting paid by AQV. "I felt it was the right thing to do" by paying those sites "because they had done what we asked them to do."

Forrester said AQV still owes VMI slightly more than $6,000. He said there is the option to file a claim for what's owed, and said that step will be taken even if VMI may not eventually receive it.

Forrester noted that VMI invested time and resources to put forth its best effort to make sure AQV's guests received a good experience during their visits to Madison. "We were told by AQV that we were one of the most popular stops along the river for their guests," Forrester said, adding that VMI consistently worked to "raise the bar" for boat tourists as they visited the city. "We want all the other ports to look at what Madison is doing."

Mark Campbell

The American Duchess and American Queen when both were docked at Madison in 2019. American Queen Voyages announced on Tuesday that it is shutting down business immediately, and all future cruises have been canceled with refunds to be issued.

He said there are multiple reasons why steamboats are a benefit to Madison — not just their impact on local businesses when they visit. "What we do hear from the stores is that the boat passengers don't spend a ton of money. They come in, they look around, they don't eat places" because their food is paid for on the boat. "It's not a huge impact when they're here, but what I see is the other benefits. It's people who get off, and say they love this place, and have got to have more than a day here."

American Queen steamboats have been docking in Madison for many years, and in November of 2022, the city signed a five-year docking agreement.

Forrester offered the story of one boat passenger falling in love with Madison, and ending up buying a home and moving to the city.

Another benefit of the steamboats is their scheduled stops are popular with other visitors as well as local residents. "We're not just a popular stop for the guests on the boat, it's popular for people to come and see the boats on the shore. Some people just come here, sit on a bench and watch the boats," he said.

Forrester said VMI will be making an effort "to get on the radar for some other companies" who provide riverboat cruises. For example, Forrester said American Cruise Lines travels the Mississippi River and has stayed away from the Ohio River and the upper Mississippi because AQV had that market.

Without AQV cruising the Ohio River maybe American Cruise Lines will consider expanding market to fill that void. "They all have kind of figured their areas so I am sure with this, I am sure it will change," he said.

"The river cruises like AQV brought thousands of visitors a year to our community and provided the nostalgic charm of olden days," said Courtney. "It will have a direct impact on the tourism economy here and all along the river. I would expect that over time, the void left by AQV will be filled by another cruise line. In the meantime, the city and its tourism partners will work just as hard to offset this loss with new growth opportunities elsewhere and continue our trend of record-setting tourism results year-over-year."

Last month, there were hints of trouble with American Queen Voyages in a story published by "Travel Weekly" that stated a number of trade organizations had suspended sales with AQV over ongoing service issues. According to the article, Signature Travel Network, Pleasant Holidays and AAA Travel all stated they were no longer offering the U.S. river cruise line due to unresolved service issues.

On the American Queen Voyages (AQV) website, the company states, "Despite great efforts by our team, crew and partners, American Queen Voyages unfortunately has been unable to rebound from the effects of the pandemic. The overnight cruise industry was especially affected by changes in travel preferences and, as a result, AQV has become financially unsustainable.

"We are deeply proud of our crew and the outstanding travel experiences and service we have provided to our guests. As we reflect on the journey we have shared over the years, we are filled with gratitude for the privilege of serving our guests, partners and agents and for being part of our incredible local communities. It has been an honor to bring joy to so many lives, and we are deeply touched by the relationships we have formed and the memorable experiences we have created."

American Queen Voyages vessels included the American Queen, American Countess, American Duchess, American Empress and the Queen Victory with river destination locations including the Lower Mississippi River, the Upper Mississippi River & Illinois Rivers, Ohio & Mississippi Rivers, Cumberland & Tennessee Rivers and Columbia & Snake Rivers.

There are links to apply for refunds at https://www.aqvinfo.com/

Grant makes baseball, softball free to youth at Madison

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Arvin Sango Inc. (ASI) will support local youth baseball and softball programs this summer with a $10,000 grant to City of Madison Parks and Recreation (MPR) that will allow all children to participate in Madison Parks leagues free of charge.

"I am humbled by the generosity and support of Arvin Sango Inc. and the Arvin Sango Foundation for their sponsorship of our baseball and softball programs for the 2024 season. Their commitment to the youth of the community is remarkable, and I look forward to a very dynamic season this year," said Madison Parks Director Scott Klein.

"Arvin Sango is dedicated to working with our community to find ways to improve the quality of life, not just for our members, but also for their families and friends," said Scott Hubbard, executive vice president at Arvin Sango. "We feel a strong community fosters successful businesses, which in turn makes all of us stronger, together. ASI believes this is a great opportunity to support the youth of our community."

With the support of ASI, Madison parks will be able to remove financial barriers for families in Jefferson County, ensuring that every child can experience the joy of playing baseball and softball. The sponsorship will cover registration fees, T-shirts, equipment expenses, program support personnel, and facility maintenance.

"Having best-in-class park amenities and programs is paramount for a thriving community and quality of life. Affordable youth programming is a high priority, and we are grateful for Arvin Sango's commitment to our community. Scott, his team, and the Parks Board are building a great parks and recreation system for all of Madison," said Madison Mayor Bob Courtney.

For more information about youth baseball and softball programs offered by MPR, please visit madison-in.gov/parks.

Trimble County commits $10K to development south of Bedford

220-acre project would address housing shortage

BY CINDY WARRICK
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

A 220-acre parcel of land just south of Bedford that was recently acquired by Trimble County is in the beginning stages of development.

Discussed at Tuesday's meeting of Trimble Fiscal Court, the property is located along U.S. 42 roughly across the highway from Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford and will be developed with a balance of commercial and housing to help meet the community's housing shortage.

"Currently there is very little housing in the mid-range of approximately $250K," said Magistrate J.D. Jones. The development would contain apartments, mid-range houses and even some homes on larger parcels within the development.

The project would be phased so that proceeds from a first phase could then be used to develop a second and third phases if that becomes the ultimate plan.

Paul Maron, a project manager and engineer with Strand Associates of Louisville, presented the proposal noting the geography of the land could require earth work to prepare land suitable for commercial development while housing could be built on the existing rolling landscape to provide architectural elements to the development.

Trimble Fiscal Court authorized up to $10,000 for Strand Associates to develop an economic development plan for the property.

Supreme Court weighing overturn of EPA's 'good neighbor' rule on power plant pollution

Challenge made by Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia

BY MATTHEW DALY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's conservative majority seemed skeptical Wednesday as the Environmental Protection Agency sought to continue enforcing an anti-air-pollution rule in 11 states while separate legal challenges proceed around the country.

The EPA's "good neighbor" rule is intended to restrict smokestack emissions from power plants and other industrial sources that burden downwind areas with smog-causing pollution.

Three energy-producing states — Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia — challenged the rule, along with the steel industry and other groups, calling it costly and ineffective. The rule is on hold in a dozen states because of the court challenges.

The Supreme Court, with a 6-3 conservative majority, has increasingly reined in the powers of federal agencies, including the EPA, in recent years. The justices have restricted EPA's authority to fight air and water pollution — including a landmark 2022 ruling that limited EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants that contribute to global warming. The court also shot down a vaccine mandate and blocked President Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness program.

The court is currently weighing whether to overturn its 40-year-old Chevron decision, which has been the basis for upholding a wide range of regulations on public health, workplace safety and consumer protections.

A lawyer for the EPA said the "good neighbor" rule was important to protect downwind states that receive unwanted air pollution from other states. Besides the potential health impacts, the states face their own federal deadlines to ensure clean air, said Deputy U.S. Solicitor General Malcolm Stewart, representing the EPA.

States such as Wisconsin, New York and Connecticut can struggle to meet federal standards and reduce harmful levels of ozone because of pollution from power plants, cement kilns and natural gas pipelines that drift across their borders.

Judith Vale, New York's deputy solicitor general, said as much as 65% of some states' smog pollution comes from out of state.

The EPA plan was intended to provide a national solution to the problem of ozone pollution, but challengers said it relied on the assumption that all 23 states targeted by the rule would participate.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh seemed sympathetic to that argument, saying the EPA plan could impose unreasonable costs on states that remain under its authority, because it was initially designed for 23 states.

"EPA came back and said, 'Even if we have fewer states, we're going to plow ahead anyway,'" Kavanaugh said. "Let's just kind of pretend nothing happened and just go ahead with the 11 states."

The EPA proceeded "without a whole lot of explanation, and nobody got a chance to comment on that" as part of the rule-making process, added Justice Neil Gorsuch.

"What (states) are asking for is simply an opportunity to make the argument before the agency," said Chief Justice John Roberts.

Stewart responded that requirements for states to control air pollution don't change based on the number of states subject to the rule. "The requirements are exactly the same," he said.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson questioned why the Supreme Court was hearing the case before the other legal challenges were completed. A lawyer for industry groups challenging the rule said it imposes significant and immediate costs that could affect the reliability of the electric grid.

"There are hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars, in costs over the next 12 to 18 months,'' with only a small reduction in air pollution and no guarantee the final rule will be upheld, said industry lawyer Catherine Stetson. "There are over-control issues here," she said.

The EPA has said power-plant emissions dropped by 18% in 2023 in the 10 states where it has been allowed to enforce its rule, which was finalized last March. Those states are Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin. In California, limits on emissions from industrial sources other than power plants are supposed to take effect in 2026.

The rule is on hold in another dozen states because of separate legal challenges. The states are Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and West Virginia.

States that contribute to ground-level ozone, or smog, are required to submit plans ensuring that coal-fired power plants and other industrial sites don't add significantly to air pollution in other states. In cases where a state has not submitted a "good neighbor" plan — or where EPA disapproves a state plan — the federal plan was supposed to ensure that downwind states are protected.

Ground-level ozone, which forms when industrial pollutants chemically react in the presence of sunlight, can cause respiratory problems, including asthma and chronic bronchitis. People with compromised immune systems, the elderly and children playing outdoors are particularly vulnerable.

Environmental and public health advocates have praised the EPA plan as a life-saving measure for people who live hundreds of miles away from power plants, cement factories, steel mills and other industrial polluters.

Industry groups criticize it as having an anti-coal bias that would drive up the cost of electricity.

Englishton Park summer camp receives grant

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Englishton Park Inc. has received a $261,720 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help strengthen its Children's Summer Camp Program conducted each summer in Lexington, Indiana.

The special grant program is being funded through the Lilly Endowment Inc. initiative, Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana (SYPI). The aim of the competitive initiative is to help youth-serving organizations working throughout Indiana improve their abilities to promote the academic, physical and social well-being of young people, ages five through 18.

"We are incredibly thankful for the incredibly strong commitment toward improving the lives of children throughout Indiana, which is being made by Lilly Endowment Inc.," said Sean Obermeyer, chairperson of Englishton Park's Board of Directors. "Most children attend our Summer Camp at little or no cost, and this grant will have a tremendous impact on our ability to build overall capacity to serve children for many years to come."

The Englishton Park Children's Summer Program is a 10-day residential, overnight, summer camp for approximately 100 at-risk girls and boys, aged 8-12, held in June and July each summer. The camp program is unique and concentrates on academic remediation and behavior modification approaches through an environment which focuses on positive reinforcement and rewards. The program is divided into three 10-day sessions, with 32-5 children in each session. Children typically only attend one session per summer.

The children who come to Englishton Park may present a learning disability, an emotional disability, or a diagnosis of ADHD, anxiety, and/or mild depression. Many of the children have experienced trauma. Some children come to the camp for the sole purpose of boosting academic skills and the opportunity for a positive experience. Children are referred by classroom teachers, school counselors, school administrators, private mental health professionals, and agencies like DCS. Children who present IEPs are accommodated.

Children are placed in small groups of seven to nine children. The staff ratio is 1:2 staff to children and staff members utilize cognitive behavior modification strategies such as positive verbal and physical praise, a daily reward system, modeling, and frequent positive behavior support. The Camp Program, begun in 1969, will celebrate its 56th consecutive year of operation in 2024.

Englishton Park is one of 187 organizations receiving grants through Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana. Lilly Endowment reports that many of the organizations will use their grants to address challenges facing particular groups of young people that are a special focus of the SYPI initiative: young people who are in low-income households; who are members of communities of color; who are from immigrant families; who lack adult supervision; or who have been exposed to trauma; or other adverse childhood experiences.

"Indiana's youth-serving organizations are crucial to the healthy development of children and youth across the state," said Ted Maple, Lilly Endowment's vice president for education. "The challenges these organizations have faced in meeting the needs of young people in recent years have made their work increasingly difficult. Lilly Endowment is pleased to support their efforts to strengthen programs and serve more youth more effectively."

Persons interested in having children attend the Englishton Park Children's Summer Camp Program may receive for more information from the camp co-directors, Thomas and Lisa Barnett at thomaslisabarnett@etczone.com or write to: Thomas and Lisa Barnett, PO Box 240, Lexington, IN 47138.

CASE

FROM **PAGE A1**

or allowing a provider like Rumpke or Best Way to perform residential pickup in the city. Both trash collectors already service a number of businesses locally.

In fact, a lot of cities opt out of municipal trash collection and allow third party collectors do that as a business rather than investing in the equipment and staffing required by Madison.

Trash collection businesses could take over the residential service and bill homeowners accordingly. They would set the collection policies and operate the service as a business rather than as a municipal department.

Madison currently charges $9.85 a month for curbside trash, recycling and compost collection. Service in nearby communities ranges from $1 a bag in Scottsburg to $33 a month in the Telegraph Hill area near Madison — both for trash only — and Scottsburg is in the process of changing its system.

Courtney said privitization could come at an even greater cost to local residential users than the proposed rate hike. Madison has not sought to profit from garbage collection and even with the proposed $2.54 per week rate increase, Madison will still charge less than most local communities at $20.01 per month and that still includes trash, recycling and composting.

Courtney said it is time for the service to be user-funded and that should not only include the cost of waste collection and disposal but also provide funds for equipment maintenance, repair and replacement without the city having to draw from its general fund or borrow money.

"We are currently losing $6 a month for each of our 6,000 customers," Courtney noted.

Madison Street Supervisor Tony Sorrells, the department head who oversees garbage collection, noted that trash collection is a major operation that most residents take for granted but for those working on the city's trucks during freezing winters and scorching summers, it's a difficult job that often includes an even worse threat than the elements. He noted that overfilled and heavy bags, broken glass and dangerous unknown chemicals, feces and other bodily waste, cat litter and food waste and maggots make for an often disgusting and dangerous job and workers have been injured from cuts, chemical burns and repetitive lifting.

Sorrells said a move to trucks with automotic tippers that lift and dump cans would remove a lot of that threat and make for a safer work environment for those employed in sanitation.

Transfer Station Operation Manager Ken Washer, said that facility has seen no major expenditures for upkeep in 40 years and that time and use have deteriorated the tipping building and scalehouse and that equipment often freezes in the winter because there is no place to keep it indoors. He said the equipment the city uses to compact trash before transfer to landfills is actually owned by Rumpke, the city's waste hauler, and that the weight and ledger system used to track and charge for dropped off waste is totally manual and handwritten adding minutes to a process that could take seconds.

Several local residents spoke during the public hearing but most admitted that their questions and concerns about the rate increase had been answered during the city's presentation. Some voiced support for the rate increase noting that the value they receive in the service is worth the rate increase, while others cautioned that some of the policies the city is proposing — like issuing tipping cans up to 96 gallons per household — might lead to even more garbage being handled by the system than the current two-bag limit and cost even more for hauling and disposal.

A couple of residents noted that they live alone, are disabled and on a fixed income and do not currently or plan to dispose of large volumes of garbage. Some said they put their cans out just once a month and asked if there could be some concession in the rate structure for smaller users like them.

District 1 Councilman Patrick Thevenow questioned efforts to expedite the rate increase — the ordinance to repeal and replace the garbage rates was introduced just last month by co-sponsors Lucy Dattilo and Jim Bartlett — and has been pushed by Courtney at two consecutive council meetings.

After what developed into a somewhat elevated exchange between Thevenow and the mayor, Thevenow made a motion that the ordinance be tabled for additional study and review and suggested that the issue be sent to the city's Major Projects Committee to do that.

"My issue is with the lack of collaboration with the council ... suddenly this is an emergency," said Thevenow.

Courtney pointed out that the council — including Thevenow — voted on a new rate schedule for the transfer station in December and he at that time said that measure was just the first step in trying to resolve the ongoing budget and operational issues with solid waste disposal.

SEE **CASE/PAGE A8**

LEGAL NOTICE

Jefferson County Public Library, Jefferson County, Indiana
Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2023

	Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan. 1, 2023	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec. 31, 2023
Governmental Activities	100	Operating	$1,687,868.48	$1,588,652.69	$1,625,046.90	$1,651,474.27
	101	Madison Cash Change	$75.00	$0.00	$0.00	$75.00
	102	Hanover Cash Change	$75.00	$0.00	$0.00	$75.00
	103	Petty Cash	$75.00	$0.00	$0.00	$75.00
	104	Refund	$15.47	$0.00	$15.47	$0.00
	200	Gift Fund	$25,351.64	$4,475.13	$3,511.43	$26,315.34
	201	Rainy Day Fund	$434,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$434,000.00
	226	Hanover Gift Fund	$9,039.28	$100.00	$37.50	$9,101.78
	227	Community Foundation Grant	$24,734.25	$4,400.00	$0.00	$29,134.25
	276	Broadband Connectivity Grant Fund	$175.15	$8,836.66	$8,529.35	$482.46
	801	Evergreen Indiana Fund	$126.60	$582.81	$643.50	$65.91
	803	Federal Tax	$0.00	$53,537.18	$53,537.18	$0.00
	804	FICA	$0.00	$49,425.88	$49,425.88	$0.00
	805	Medicare	$0.00	$11,558.96	$11,558.96	$0.00
	806	State Tax	$0.00	$24,368.79	$24,368.79	$0.00
	807	County Tax	$0.00	$7,109.37	$7,109.37	$0.00
	809	Insurance	$0.00	$2,970.98	$2,970.98	$0.00
	810	Tax Exempt	$0.00	$21,516.24	$21,516.24	$0.00
	811	F.S.A.	$0.00	$3,049.92	$3,049.92	$0.00
	812	Deferred Comp	$0.00	$21,109.44	$21,109.44	$0.00
	813	ROTH	$0.00	$6,254.10	$6,254.10	$0.00
	815	Sales Tax	$1.01	$1.96	$0.97	$2.00
		Total All Funds	**$2,181,536.88**	**$1,807,950.11**	**$1,838,685.98**	**$2,150,801.01**

hspaxlp

$13 million water project nearing completion

BY BOB DEMAREE

The city of Madison's $13 million water infrastructure project is winding down to its final stages with the city's Board of Public Works and Safety approving substantial completion of Brackney Inc.'s water main replacement work at its meeting on Tuesday.

Rob Bellucci, project manager for Commonwealth Engineers, explained that "substantial completion" means that Brackney Inc. has installed the scope of work that it was contracted to do the point that the city has beneficial use of the work. With acceptance of that, Bellucci said it begins the 12-month warranty period when Brackney must repair, at no cost to the city, anything that breaks from its work.

At the same time, Brackney has 30 days to complete all the items that are on a final punch list. "While you have beneficial use of the water mains and the service lines, they still have got to go clean up their mess," said Bellucci. "They have to make sure yards are put back together. They have to address any issue in the streets. They have to pick up all their stuff and remove from the site. Basically, return the site to what it was before them showing up."

Bellucci said there is a check list of all items still to be done, and full retainage of $252,933.06 is being held until all are completed.

The BPWS also approved a change order for a $19,482.24 increase for Brackney Inc. that will come out of the contingency money for the project. "Their overall contract was over $4.8 million and we're only adjusting by a little more than $19,000, so we're in pretty good shape with it," Bellucci said.

Mayor Bob Courtney said, "The city's continued investment in its utility infrastructure is making great progress. The most visible phase included water main replacement and improved fire protection in five neighborhoods downtown and on the hilltop, including across the golf course. This phase has reached substantial completion ahead of schedule and the remainder of the project for our towers and treatment plant is on schedule. Superintendent Brian Jackson is doing a great job managing this major investment."

Jackson said Dave O'Mara Contractors Inc., which is doing the supply and treatment improvements at the city's existing water treatment facilities and booster pump stations, is about two-thirds finished.

"They are awaiting the arrival of the generators, but they are still working on many other items as well to finish up the project," said Jackson. "At our west end plant, they are still working on electrical, piping, control valves, fittings and our fluoride room. At the hilltop tanks, they are still working on electrical and piping. The delays that they are experiencing are primarily due to the delay in the generators and some of the valves needed."

Because of that, BPWS provided a 95-day time request extension to Dave O'Mara Contractors Inc. with expectations that all work will be completed in April or May.

MW Cole Construction is doing the work for rehabilitation of the city's six water storage tanks which Jackson noted is about 80% complete. "They are finishing up the work on the north tower and should be done by the end of next week, excluding cleanup. The only tank remaining with work to be done is the downtown hillside tank and it is only getting a few minor things done."

Jackson said there have some been delays because of cold weather, causing M.W. Cole Construction to not meet its Feb. 11 deadline for substantial completion and requiring the contractor seek a time extension.

The board also approved State Revolving Fund (SRF) requests from the city's water infrastructure project — Dave O'Mara Contracting, $169,929 for water treatment plants; M.W. Cole, $45,125 for water storage tanks; and Brackney Inc., $18,833 for water main replacements.

Going Up

Photos by Bob Demaree

Workers use an angle grinder and a blower to smooth the edges of concrete near the splash pad at the new Crystal Beach Aquatic Park in downtown Madison.

Workers on the city of Madison's $7.2 million Crystal Beach Aquatic Park were busy finishing concrete work and constructing the tower for the pool's giant slide on Wednesday. Once the tower is up, workers can begin assembling the blue sections of tubing that will make up the slide. The facility is rounding into form with the splash pad taking shape and completion set for May ahead of the 2024 swim season.

PARK

FROM **PAGE A1**

Riders motorcycles arriving in front of the Courthouse. He said the monument has been completed and will be installed prior to the dedication. "It's going to be very impressive," said County Commissioner Bobby Little.

Jones said the dedication is scheduled for March 29 because that is Vietnam Veterans Day. On that day in 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil. That date also happens to fall on Good Friday this year.

"Thank you so much for doing this. It's going to be a great event," said Courtney

- Approved a street closing for Central Avenue between First Street and Vaughn Drive for Music on the Park events, sponsored Madison Main Street, on June 14, July 12, Aug. 9 and Sept. 13 in Bicentennial Park. Additionally, street closings along Broadway Street between Main and Third streets were approved for the Madison Farmers Market, also sponsored by Madison Main Street, each Saturday from May 4 through Oct. 26.

Austin Sims, executive director of Madison Main Street, introduced two new employees — Lindsay Holley as the new program manager and Brittany Demaree as the new market manager for the Madison Farmers Market.

- Approved a street closing in connection with the Trinity United Methodist Church Worship in the Park each Sunday from April 1 through Oct. 31 on the southbound lane of Broadway Street between Main and Third streets from 10 a.m. to Noon.

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Strike averted at Kentucky truck plant

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Ford Motor Co. and the United Auto Workers union have reached a tentative agreement on a local contract at the company's largest and most profitable factory, averting the threat of a strike.

The union said last week said that nearly 9,000 workers at the Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville would walk picket lines starting Friday if the contract dispute was not resolved.

But the UAW said in a statement Wednesday that a deal had been reached, ending the strike threat.

The tentative agreement addresses health and safety issues, ergonomics, the company's efforts to reduce the number of skilled trades workers and other issues, the union said.

The plant, one of two Ford factories in Louisville, makes heavy-duty F-Series pickup trucks and the Ford Excursion and Lincoln Navigator large SUVs, all hugely profitable vehicles for the company.

CASE

FROM **PAGE A7**

Thevenow's motion died for lack of a second.

Courtney said the city needs a financial plan, a modernization plan and a safety plan moving forward and it starts with the $10 per month increase.

The financial side of the plan would see the city collect $120 a year more per household, the modernization plan would involve the city issuing garbage containers that can be tipped using automated equipment on trucks and implementing a more modern bookkeeping and billing system at the transfer station, the safety plan would involve sanitation workers no longer having to touch and lift every bag of household waste on every route in the city and making improvements to a transfer station that is essentially falling apart. The ordinance could be up for a third reading and adoption at the council's meeting on Tuesday, March 5.

"Tonight we brought long overdue solutions to another old problem. The majority of council understands the urgency to resolve our garbage collection deficits and make it safer at the same time for our staff. The community supports our plan and appreciates the value of the service we provide. The unsuccessful motion by Thevenow to delay action would've put the service in jeopardy. Keeping our community clean is a top priority and the plan I presented does that. There are still months of work ahead but we'll get there!" Courtney said later.

Buy Guarantees Not Promises

Layin' it on the line

By Stephen Dybwad
Retirement Planning/
Wealth Management

In the world of insurance, guarantees matter.

Consider the state of the insurance industry, what is guaranteed anymore? Car insurance premiums are not guaranteed, have a ticket or an accident and see what happens to your future premiums — the same with Liability policies, fire insurance and almost any other category of third-party protection.

Insurance companies are happy to offer you protection but only if they can change the rules in the future. The guarantee of insurance continuance is not even guaranteed, become a terrible risk and out you go.

The famous investor, **Warren Buffett**, put it in perspective when he said this about the insurance business. "How can you beat a business where people send you money, and someday you MIGHT have to pay our something?" He couldn't have said it any better; the insurance business is mostly rigged, rigged in favor of the insurance company.

Why does it have to be that way? Why can't an insurance company charge a premium and offer a guarantee?

Would it not make sense for both sides to be honest and fair? Premiums are paid, claims are paid, a win-win situation. The reason that cannot happen is simple if the insurance company is on the hook, they want to be able to wiggle off by changing the number of premiums paid.

One notable example of insurance companies making every attempt to improve their position is the huge mistake made in assumptions used for calculating the actual cost of **Long-Term Care Insurance.** Premiums have increased by almost 900% in the past 25 years, 900%! Why have premiums escalated? Because the volume of policy owners that have kept their policies and not quit has not met with the assumed projections, the results are far too many claims. So, the insurance companies did the obvious thing; they raised premiums, premiums that have caused enormous difficulties for those who need to keep their protection in place.

I make my livelihood in the insurance business; I offer policies to prospects and care for my clients every day. Why would I associate myself with an industry that is all about rule changing to benefit themselves? Why would I induce anyone to do business with companies who slant the rules for their benefit?

I happen to work in the one segment of the industry that offers the only product that contains guarantees; I sell insurance issued contracts called annuities. These products provide guarantees; insurance companies live up to their guarantees honestly.

Here is an example, a 5-year contract that pays 5% interest for each year of the contract. Three years? Longer? Yes, many options are available. Why are annuity companies different than other segments of the industry?

In a simple answer, it is this; the insurance company doesn't want your money, it merely wants to hold your money.

They use your money to make their money, and the benefits offered to you are fully guaranteed. Does an annuity make sense for you? It all depends, it depends on what you need to match up with your goals. If a guaranteed interest rate is essential and a guaranteed lifetime income is necessary, and a guaranteed benefit to your beneficiary is essential, then maybe an annuity will become important to you.

Annuities are not for everyone, but for those who can benefit from the guarantees offered, they might be exactly what you want.

Stephen Dybwad, a long time Hoosier resident, is a member of *Syndicated Columnists*, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management. Syndicated Columnists is the sole provider of this material, both written and conceptual, for this column. All rights reserved.

Kasper Insurance 220 Clifty Drive Madison, IN 47250 Telephone 812-273-1187. Stephen Dybwad (retirevillage.com)

Kahn breaks Shawe career scoring record in Hilltopper loss at Milan

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

David Campbell

Shawe senior Philip Kahn gets congratulations from teammates — including a hair tussle from fellow senior Ryker Brooks — after becoming the school's career scoring leader in the Hilltoppers' loss at Milan on Tuesday.

MILAN — Philip Kahn has always been more concerned with team accomplishments than individual ones, so when his career-defining moment happened to come in a loss, it obviously took some of the fun out of the moment.

Kahn scored 20 points and broke Shawe's 55-year-old career scoring mark as the Hilltoppers closed out the regular season with a 76-62 loss at Milan.

Kahn needed 14 points to break Bob Wolf's record of 1,461 points and become Shawe's all-time leading scorer. He did that on a running jumper in the lane with 1:56 left in the third quarter.

Milan school officials stopped the game and recognized Kahn, but the Hilltoppers trailed by three at the time and the Shawe star wasn't in the mood to celebrate. After the game, he posed for photos and did interviews, but his thoughts were still with his team and how the win got away.

"It's pretty cool. I'm just really grateful that I have a lot of good teammates," Kahn said. "Obviously I didn't want to do it in a loss, but everything can't be perfect. I'm just glad I got to do it in front of all of these amazing people, teammates and coaches."

"As humble as that kid is, he would be the first one that would literally hand back a scoring record for a win," Shawe coach Dan Hambrick said. "He's that kind of kid."

Kahn's record night came on the heels of an amazing run by the senior. He broke the school's single game scoring mark with 49 points several weeks ago and knocked down a school-record 26 free throws in a win over Trimble County last week. Last weekend, he scored 80 points in two games for the Hilltoppers.

Kahn has been a scorer since he first set foot on the floor as a freshman, but passing Wolf's record set in 1969 seemed out of reach. Many great Hilltoppers have come close — including Kahn's father Phil who is currently 4th on the school's all-time list — but none had done it. Until now.

"It's kind of surreal and I'm sure it will sink in soon," Philip said. "I hear that Bob Wolf was a great player and to be mentioned with him is an honor. Plus he's (teammate) Tyler Hill's grandfather so that's a really cool connection to have."

The only thing that would have made the night better would have been getting a win, but Milan was determined to spoil Kahn's big night.

The Indians (3-18, 3-3 Ohio River Valley) came into the game with just two wins, but they have been playing well lately and it showed on Tuesday.

Despite a game-high 32 points from Shawe's Braiden Smith and 20 from Kahn, Shawe had trouble keeping pace with Milan. The Hilltoppers trailed 11-10 after the first quarter and 29-26 at halftime. After Kahn broke the record in the third quarter, the Indians took over the game, outscoring Shawe by 11 in the second half to pull away for the win.

The genesis of Milan's win came on offensive rebounds. The Indians spent the night gobbling up their own misses and putting them back in to ruin strong Shawe defensive stands possession after possession.

Despite the loss, Hambrick hopes the game will serve a learning experience for the Hilltoppers, who open the Class 1A Sectional at New Washington next Tuesday against Trinity Lutheran.

"You look at (Milan's) record, they're probably one of the best 3-18 teams in the state," Hambrick said. They play a lot like

SEE **RECORD/PAGE B8**

BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Wrightsman picks up 300th career win in Switzerland win

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Switzerland County High School Athletics

Switzerland County boys varsity head basketball coach Travis Wrightsman (right) and former Jac-Cen-Del head coach David Bradshaw after Wrightsman claimed his 300th career win at Jac-Cen-Del on Monday.

Switzerland County head coach Travis Wrightsman earned his 300th career win in the Pacers' 54-46 victory at Jac-Cen-Del on Monday.

Wrightsman, who previously coached at South Ripley, now has a career record of 300-217, including 36-58 in three years at Switzerland County.

Junior Cam Craig, who scored his 1,000th-career point last week, had 25 points to lead the Pacers while Kadyn Riley scored 14 points and Jacob Williams had 12.

On Tuesday, Switzerland traveled to Gallatin County and lost 68-62. Craig had 28 points while Riley had 17.

Switzerland, now 13-8 on the season, hosted Madison on Thursday and closes out the regular season at South Dearborn on Friday. The Pacers drew the bye and will take on either North Decatur or Milan in the semifinals of the Class 2A Sectional at South Ripley next Friday, March 1.

REBELS WIN 20TH GAME

Southwestern's boys finished the regular season with a 61-56 win at Charlestown on Tuesday.

Landon Kidwell had 20 points to lead the Rebels while Jamison Lewis scored 16 points and Peyton Cloud had 12.

Southwestern, now 20-3, hosts the Class 2A Sectional starting next Tuesday. The Rebels will take on Clarksville in the opening round on Wednesday.

CUBS FALL AT EAST

Columbus East shot 53% from the floor to defeat Madison 66-60 in boys basketball Monday at home.

The game was nip-and-tuck the entire way and the Cubs trailed by just one early in the fourth quarter. East made enough shots down the stretch to pull out the win.

Oscar Gonzalez scored 17 points to lead Madison while Landon True had 13 points and Mason Davis scored 12.

Madison, now 6-16 on the season, traveled to Switzerland County on Thursday for its final regular-season game. The Cubs will then play either Silver Creek or Salem in the semifinals of the Class 3A Sectional at Scottsburg next Friday, March 1.

TRIMBLE GIRLS BEAT WOODFORD

Trimble County girls basketball scored a 44-34 win over Woodford County at home on Tuesday.

Jolie Wilcoxson scored 13 points to lead the Raiders. Kendra Mahoney had seven points and Addison Edmondson scored six.

Trimble, now 15-12 on the season, travels to Oldham County on Friday for its final regular season game. The Raiders face either Gallatin County or

SEE **CAREER/PAGE B8**

CALENDAR

Friday, Feb. 23

BASEBALL

Hanover vs. Wilmington at Demorest, Georgia., noon

BASKETBALL

Hanover men vs. Transylvania, HCAC Tournament at Anderson, 7 p.m.
Hanover women vs. Mount St. Joseph, HCAC Tournament at Transylvania, 7 p.m.
Carroll Co. girls host Shelby Co., 7:30 p.m.
Switzerland Co. boys at South Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.
Trimble Co. boys host Crothersville, 7:30 p.m.
Trimble Co. girls at Oldham Co., 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Madison boys, IHSAA State Finals at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 24

BASEBALL

Hanover at Piedmont (Georgia), 4 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Hanover/Transylvania men vs. Anderson/Manchester, HCAC Tournament Championship at Anderson, 6 p.m.
Hanover/Mount St. Joseph women vs. Transylvania/Franklin, HCAC Tournament Championship at Transylvania, 6 p.m.

LACROSSE

Hanover women host Huntingdon, 11 a.m.
Hanover men hosts Concordia, 2 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Hanover at Webster, 2 p.m. (DH)

SWIMMING

Madison boys, IHSAA State Finals at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Hanover, HCAC Indoor Championships at Rose-Hulman, 1 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 25

BASEBALL

Hanover vs. Randolph-Macon at Demorest, Georgia, 10 a.m.

SOFTBALL

Hanover at Washington (Mo.), 2 p.m. (DH)

TENNIS

Hanover men and women at Wittenberg, 1 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 26

BASKETBALL

Carroll Co. girls vs. Henry Co., KHSAA 31st District Tournament at Carroll Co., 6 p.m.
Carroll Co. boys vs. Trimble Co., KHSAA 31st District Tournament at Carroll Co., 7:30 p.m.

LACROSSE

Hanover women at Waynesburg, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

BASEBALL

Hanover vs. Eastern University at Myrtle Beach, 11 a.m.

BASKETBALL

Shawe boys vs. Trinity Lutheran, IHSAA Class A Sectional Tournament at New Washington, 7:30 p.m.

Ward's last-second putback lifts LSU over Kentucky

BY BRETT MARTEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BATON ROUGE, La. — While LSU's Tyrell Ward was mobbed on the court by jubilant fans, including women's basketball star Angel Reese, Kentucky coach John Calipari and the Wildcats could only watch the celebration while awaiting a brief video review of the frantic, last-second sequence that did them in.

Ward capped a 17-point performance with a short floater as time expired, and LSU pulled out a second straight comeback victory over a ranked team with a 75-74 victory over No. 17 Kentucky on Wednesday night.

"We wanted it more than them, plain and simple," Ward said. "I would definitely say we're finding more ways to win."

The Wildcats nearly sealed a dramatic, last-minute comeback when Adou Thiero blocked Jordan Wright's driving shot in the final seconds. Wright was able to push the ball back up in front of the rim, where Ward leaped to grab the ball and quickly release his decisive shot before he came down.

"Adou blocks it; I got to watch the tape and say, 'Who did not grab that ball — the winning ball — who didn't grab it and why?' " Calipari said. "Why not dive on the floor? Just tie it up and we win the game."

Calipari lamented that an inability secure a number of loose balls cost his team the game.

"That's all we talk about," Calipari said. "If you're not going to come up with 50-50 balls, you can't win. ... They toughed us for those balls, which were the difference."

Ward's basket sent jubilant fans pouring onto the floor as security officers scrambled to rope off an area around both benches in an effort to minimize mingling between spectators and the teams.

Reese threw her arms around Ward's shoulders as she hopped joyously next to him, but Ward said he didn't realize she was there.

"I blacked out as soon as the shot went in," Ward said. "I can't remember. I didn't know nothing that was going on."

Wright and Jalen Reed each scored 13 points for LSU (14-12, 6-7 Southeastern Conference), which erased a 15-point, second half deficit against Kentucky — one game after overcoming a 16-point, second-half hole in a 64-63 victory at then-No. 11 South Carolina on Saturday.

"Just so proud of our players," LSU second-year coach Matt McMahon said. "Over the last week, we've seen the toughness that we need to play with. I think it has to be the foundation of your program.

"We really came together as a team and found ways to get it done," he added. "It's a special week, certainly something we can build on."

Antonio Reeves scored 25 points for Kentucky (18-8, 8-5), which has now stumbled to five losses in its past nine games. Rob Dillingham scored 22 of his

SEE **WARD/PAGE B8**

Getty Images for NASCAR

William Byron celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Monday in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Byron has battled 'imposter syndrome' in climb from computer racer to Daytona 500 champ

BY JENNA FRYER
AP AUTO RACING WRITER

DAYTONA BEACH — William Byron grew up in the hotbed of NASCAR, so close to the stars that he could trick-or-treat at Jimmie Johnson's house every Halloween.

He'd tell Johnson every year that someday he'd race alongside him at Hendrick Motorsports. But aside from decorating his Charlotte, North Carolina, bedroom with Johnson memorabilia, Byron had no idea how to actually make it into the top racing series in the United States.

After all, he didn't even race.

So he taught himself his race craft on a computer — to the point he'd get yelled at to stop messing around with his racing games — and became determined to make it in NASCAR.

"It's all about what gets you up in the morning, what is it that you absolutely can't go without? For me, that was racing," Byron said. "I didn't know I was going to be a race car driver. But getting in through iRacing and being on there, I was obsessed. I would go in there every hour of the day. I had to balance it with other things. ... but racing was what always was my passion.

"If you find something that you love, you spend every minute of the day thinking about it."

The self-taught racer made it in 2016, when he was 18 and of NASCAR's legal age to compete in a full season of Truck Series competition. He drove for Kyle Busch Motorsports and won seven races under the guidance of crew chief Rudy Fugle.

He was soon a development driver for Hendrick Motorsports and in a Cup car two years later. Team owner Rick Hendrick put Byron in the famed No. 24 Chevrolet that Jeff Gordon drove to four Cup titles and 93 career wins. Hendrick tried different crew chief pairings, and it was Chad Knaus, who led Johnson to his record-tying seven titles, who led Byron to his first victory in 2020.

The next year, Hendrick brought Fugle into the organization to work with Byron and there's been no looking back. Byron on Monday won the rain-postponed Daytona 500 to launch Hendrick Motorsports' 40th anniversary celebration on the exact day the team made its Daytona 500 debut four decades earlier.

"I think when you look at his work ethic and (Fugle), they're a lethal combination. The confidence level between both of them, it's amazing," said Hendrick. "William puts in the work. That's all he thinks about. He's in the simulator. He's watching tapes. He has worked so hard. People don't realize how much time he puts in. When you think about his age and how smart he is and how he races like a guy that's been doing it for a long time, doesn't make many mistakes, but he just eats and drinks and sleeps winning."

Byron snapped a Daytona 500 losing streak for Hendrick that dated back to Dale Earnhardt Jr. in 2014. He became the sixth different driver to win the 500 for the team and the ninth Daytona 500 win for Hendrick Motorsports tied the organization with Petty Enterprises for most in NASCAR history.

Gordon, now vice chairman of Hendrick Motorsports, believes Byron will make his own name for himself in Gordon's old car.

"I try not to be biased, but William is making it hard on me. It is 2024, and the 24 is always going to be very, very special to me," Gordon said. "But what I loved the most is seeing him make it his number and building that fan base not only 24 fans, they have been around for a long time, but his own fans.

"A win like this, my gosh, this is going to elevate that up to the next level and bring a whole lot more new fans to the sport and for William."

It might also be a boost for Byron's confidence, which he admitted he's sometimes struggled with as a racer who came through a non-traditional route to drive for the winningest team in NASCAR history.

He was teammates with Johnson, and at 26 years old is currently the youngest driver on a roster that includes Cup champions Chase Elliott and Kyle Larson, as well as Alex Bowman, who finished second to Byron on Monday at Daytona International Speedway.

"I'm the other guy," joked Byron, who lost last year's Cup title to Ryan Blaney, the older brother of Byron's girlfriend.

But he admitted to difficulty sometimes in accepting that Byron is where he's supposed to be in his career.

"I feel like I've always had a bit of imposter syndrome because I race against Jimmie Johnson, like this guy was my hero. Literally every Sunday I had his diecast cars in my room and just dreamed about what it would be like to be in his shoes and now I get to race against him," Byron said. "It's a pretty crazy emotion to go through, just getting into the Cup Series, just honestly being happy to be there, and then figuring out, 'OK, well, what are my goals? What are the things I want to accomplish?'

"I feel like I've always had a bit of kind of work through fear because of fear, and I feel like that's fueled me because I never want to lose the opportunity to race in the Cup Series and have a shot to win races with the team I'm with."

And so a year after winning a Cup Series-high six races, Byron opened 2024 with a bit of a chip on his shoulder — as if his peers don't actually take him seriously and they know Elliott and Larson are the stars at Hendrick. After his strategy led to a Daytona 500 win, Byron now wants to carry it all the way to the Cup championship in November.

"I don't know if I'll ever get that chip off my shoulder. It's always been there," he said. "There's always reasons to find. We didn't win the championship, and we don't get talked about the most, and other people get more publicity, things like that. Whatever I find, I use as motivation. It's just the way I've always been internally. I don't express that a lot. But it definitely burns inside.

"I feel like that's what fuels your off-seasons a lot of times is just what can I find? What little edge can I find to be the best? There's still tons to learn."

Premium talent still available on MLB's free-agent market, but no rush by GMs

BY DAVID BRANDT
AP BASEBALL WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Cleveland's new manager, Stephen Vogt, isn't sure why this year's free agent market has entered a deep freeze even as temperatures heat up during spring training in Arizona and Florida.

He just wants to see it thaw as quickly as possible.

"Those guys should be in camp," Vogt said. "I don't know who is at fault, I don't know why, I don't need to know. But our game's at its best when the best players are on the field.

"I hope those guys sign soon."

The guys Vogt is referring to are a half-dozen high-quality free agents who remain unsigned as the calendar nears March.

The resumes are impressive: two-time Cy Young Award-winning lefty Blake Snell, former MVP Cody Bellinger, six-time All-Star J.D. Martinez, four-time Gold Glove third baseman Matt Chapman, two-time All-Star shortstop Tim Anderson and left-hander Jordan Montgomery, who helped the Rangers to a World Series title last fall.

Vogt — of course — doesn't make front-office decisions. However, 15 of the 30 general managers who do were at Cactus League media day on Tuesday.

Nobody seemed particularly desperate to make moves.

"It ebbs and flows, but there have been years, like I remember I was in Cleveland, and we signed Nick Swisher and Michael Bourn late in camp," Cubs general manager Carter Hawkins said. "So it's not out of the ordinary."

This year's free-agent market peaked in December, when the Los Angeles Dodgers spent more than $1 billion to sign two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani and right-handed pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto. The defending National League champion Arizona Diamondbacks were also among the teams active early, signing lefty Eduardo Rodriguez to an $80 million, four-year deal.

D-backs general manager Mike Hazen said he didn't want to speculate on other teams' strategies.

"I can't answer for everybody else," Hazen said. "I feel like we've made a decent amount of transactions. We're looking to help build our team any way we can and we've ended up getting a couple of deals done."

The Los Angeles Angels and San Diego Padres are two teams that have spent big in the past, but seem to be taking a more cautious approach in 2024. The Boston Red Sox have been fairly quiet, too, and third baseman Rafael Devers said Tuesday his team could use some help.

"Everybody has a different perspective," Angels GM Perry Minasian said. "Every offseason is different. I don't think there's any offseason that's the same, because it's a different pool of players. For me, we're worried about what we have, not what we don't have."

The Padres had the third-highest payroll in baseball last season at $258 million, but finished 82-80 and missed the playoffs. The franchise has been in cost-cutting mode since.

Mets pitcher Senga dealing with arm fatigue after throwing at spring training

BY JAY COHEN
AP BASEBALL WRITER

New York Mets right-hander Kodai Senga experienced some arm fatigue after throwing a side session during spring training.

Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said Wednesday that Senga was being examined by the team's trainers. Mendoza wasn't sure if the Japanese pitcher would have an MRI.

"We'll see. We've got to get with the trainers because that was late, obviously," Mendoza told reporters in Port St. Lucie, Florida. "I've got to get more information. But he got on the mound yesterday and today he came in and just overall arm fatigue."

New York is looking to Senga to help anchor its rotation after he put together an impressive rookie season. The Mets signed right-hander Luis Severino and left-hander Sean Manaea in the offseason, and they acquired right-hander Adrian Houser in a December trade with Milwaukee.

The 31-year-old Senga signed a $75 million, five-year contract with New York in December 2022. He went 12-7 with a 2.98 ERA in 29 starts last year.

The Mets are hoping to rebound after they finished fourth in the NL East with a 75-87 record. David Stearns took over as president of baseball operations in September, and Mendoza was hired in November.

New York also announced Wednesday that it had agreed to a minor league contract with Ji Man Choi. The veteran first baseman played for Pittsburgh and San Diego last year, batting .163 with six homers and 13 RBIs in 39 games.

INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

It looks as if the Los Angeles Dodgers are making the most of their international roster.

In a video posted by the Dodgers on social media on Wednesday, outfielder Teoscar Hernández is giving a Spanish lesson to new teammates Shohei Ohtani and Yoshinobu Yamamoto.

Ohtani offers a near-perfect "Buenos días fanáticos" — Good morning, fans — and then laughs and smiles. Hernández then goes to Yamamoto, and he says "Buenos días."

Hernández, Ohtani and Yamamoto are entering their first season with LA. Hernández finalized a $23.5 million, one-year contract in January. Ohtani joined the Dodgers on a $700 million, 10-year deal, and Yamamoto received a $325 million, 12-year contract.

Ohtani wants to get 50 at-bats during spring training — counting live batting practice and swings off a pitching machine — to prepare for the regular season, and he thinks he has plenty of time to fit them in. The Dodgers play the San Diego Padres on March 20 in Seoul, South Korea, in their regular-season opener.

The 29-year-old Ohtani told reporters in Glendale, Arizona, that he is feeling good at the plate and seeing the ball well. The two-time AL MVP also said there is nothing new happening with his surgically repaired right elbow.

FAST FRIENDS

Yankees ace Gerrit Cole threw 36 pitches to Austin Wells over two innings in a simulated game, and then praised the young catcher's work behind the plate.

The 24-year-old Wells made his major league debut on Sept. 1 at Houston.

"He's come up and been like, I've never saw him bad," Cole said. "I thought that right away his game-calling was exceptional."

Wells hit .229 with four homers and 13 RBIs in 19 games last year. He could get significant playing time this season.

"It's great catching a Cy Young Award winner," Wells said. "Just trying to build a relationship with him. Started last year just picking his brain. Then come to this spring, the same thing, picking his brain and trying just to understand why he's throwing what pitches in certain counts."

Cole was pleased with his outing.

"I threw at least one good pitch of all different pitches and the velo was good," Cole said.

HE'S HERE

The Washington Nationals added some outfield depth by agreeing to a minor league contract with Jesse Winker.

The 30-year-old Winker appeared in 61 games with Milwaukee last year, batting .199 with a homer and 23 RBIs. He is a .264 hitter with 81 homers and 266 RBIs in 610 career games, also playing for Cincinnati and Seattle.

AILING

San Francisco Giants right-hander Keaton Winn is dealing with elbow soreness after throwing his last bullpen session. He will rest and receive treatment before being reevaluated this weekend.

Winn, who turned 26 on Tuesday, made his big league debut on June 13. He went 1-3 with a 4.68 ERA in nine games with San Francisco last year, including five starts.

De La Cruz foul ball leaves crater in window on Greene's car at Reds camp

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Elly De La Cruz and Hunter Greene faced off in Cincinnati Reds camp on Tuesday and it took a toll — on a window on Greene's car.

With Greene on the mound, De La Cruz hit a foul ball into the players' parking lot at the team's spring training facility. The ball left a crater in a window on Greene's car.

The young slugger and the 6-foot-5 right-hander posed for a picture with the window after the live batting practice session.

De La Cruz and Greene are two key players for Cincinnati as it tries to get back to the playoffs for the first time since 2020.

The 22-year-old De La Cruz made his big league debut last year, hitting .235 with 13 homers, 44 RBIs and 35 steals in 98 games.

The 24-year-old Greene, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2017 amateur draft, could start on opening day for the Reds. He went 4-7 with a 4.82 ERA in 22 starts last year.

COURIERAREA SPORTS SHORTS

TCHS Photo

Trimble County's girls junior varsity basketball team after winning the 31st District tourney 35-34 on Wednesday at Eminence.

BY THE COURIER STAFF

- Trimble County junior varsity girls basketball scored a 35-34 win over Eminence in the finals of the of 31st District Tournament on Wednesday.

Down 34-32 with time running out, Alyssa Ritchie hit 3-pointer from the right corner at the buzzer to give the Raiders the one-point win. Earlier in the day, Trimble defeated Gallatin County 30-15 in the semifinals.

- Shawe's Philip Kahn and Switzerland County's Cam Craig were named Ohio River Valley Conference boys basketball players of the week.

Kahn scored 84 points and had 12 rebounds while going 37-for-46 in two games for the Hilltoppers. Craig had 61 points and 19 rebounds in two games and scored his 1,000th-career point.

- Shawe junior varsity boys basketball closed out the season with a 53-48 loss at Milan on Tuesday.

Cavaan Hambrick had 21 points and Gus Grote had 15 for the Hilltoppers.

- Switzerland County's eighth grade girls basketball defeated South Dearborn 38-12 on Tuesday.

Madison Spilman had 14 points, five rebounds and five steals for the Pacers and Taylor Kappes had 11 points, 10 steals and five assists.

Switzerland faces South Dearborn again on Saturday in the Rivertown Classic.

- The Madison Cubs Baseball Clinic will be held March 9-10 at Gary O'Neal Field.

The clinic is open to kids in grades first through eighth. The first and second grader clinic will run 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., third through fifth 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. and sixth through eighth from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Cost is $25 per camper and all campers will receive a T-shirt.

- Applications for the 2024 Hanover Parks Department baseball and softball leagues are now being accepted.

Leagues for kids ages three through 12 are available. Cost is $30 for the first child in a family, $25 for the second child and $20 for each child after that. Deadline is March 27 and all applications received by that date are guaranteed a roster spot.

The Hoosier Gym, home of Hickory Huskers, still resonates with basketball fans

BY TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

KNIGHTSTOWN — The court is the same one where Jimmy Chitwood played. The locker room is exactly as it was when Norman Dale coached. The wall separating the bleachers from the floor is still there.

Things change. The Hoosier Gym doesn't.

About 35 miles east of Indianapolis is the little town of Knightstown, which most people probably aren't too familiar with. Basketball fans, however, are likely very aware of the place that brings more people into the town than anything else — a small brick building that the Hickory Huskers of the movie "Hoosiers" called home. It's still there, still iconic nearly four decades after the film's release, hosting more than 50,000 visitors and dozens of high school games each year.

"When you get that many people coming here every year," said Larry Loveall, one of the volunteers that keeps the gym running, "you know you're doing something right."

The movie — ranked as the No. 1 sports film of all-time by The Associated Press in 2020 — was released in 1986. Gene Hackman starred as coach Dale, a man who was given a second chance at coaching after his first one ended for striking one of his players years earlier. Hackman famously thought the movie would end his career; he didn't think it would be a success.

He was very, very wrong. The tale of the Huskers, a small-town team that in the movie version took on the big-city South Bend Central in the 1952 Indiana state championship game and won in a David vs. Goliath story with Chitwood — a sharpshooter who initially didn't want to play for the team — hitting the buzzer-beater to win the state title, still resonates. It's an underdog story, a Cinderella story, one loosely based on the real-life story of small-school Milan winning Indiana's 1954 state championship.

"It's about basketball, obviously," said Brad Long, who plays Buddy Walker in the film. "But it's about redemption and anytime you have a movie where the underdog does well and overachieves, it makes people feel good about themselves. That formula always works."

It still does.

The movie plays on a loop in the lobby of the building, which was Knightstown High's home gym until 1966. The court, which is meticulously maintained, has been down since 1936 and there isn't a single dead spot to thwart dribblers. Down the steep staircase at the far end is the Hickory locker room; people have wanted to repaint it over the years but have smartly resisted — because the faded white walls and scuffed-up gray floor is how it looked in the movie, and so it shall remain.

There have been some upgrades, of course. The backboards are glass, not wood like they were in the film. There are digital scoreboards. Electric heat was added to the locker room. The playing surface was slightly widened to make it conform to current standards.

That's about it.

"I've been maintaining this gym since 1998," Loveall said. "It's our pride and joy."

The gym is in Knightstown, though the movie isn't about the town. The school — enrollment of nearly 400, not quite the 64 that Hickory famously had in the movie — goes by the nickname Panthers, not Huskers. The Panthers don't play their home games in The Hoosier Gym, and there has been a time or two where the gym and the school have disagreed on where some items like a long-abandoned victory bell belong; it's displayed at the gym, in a room filled with Knightstown memorabilia and not artifacts from the movie.

The place remains open largely because fans keep visiting. It has been the site of everything from political rallies to fundraising dinners. The court can be rented for $100 an hour — and groups come from all over to play or just get shots up.

"It's always an honor to be back," actor Maris Valainis, who plays Chitwood in the movie, said when the team was assembled in Knightstown for a 35th anniversary gathering a couple years ago.

Of the many lines in the movie that resonate, one — "Welcome to Indiana basketball," the line uttered by Dale as he fixes his tie before stepping onto the court for his first game as coach — might stand out a bit more than most others.

Thing is, the court isn't just about Indiana basketball anymore.

High school teams from across the country come to play there now, and from that was born a new tradition. They leave a jersey behind, all signed by players. They hang in the locker room and other parts of the building, more than 300 of them now in a collection that's constantly growing. Some leave little notes behind on the jerseys as well; Cale Leitch of Talawanda High in Ohio hit a shot at the buzzer to give his team a 48-46 win there last year and scrawled "Game winner" under his name and number.

"I envisioned it," Leitch told the Southwest Ohio Sports Daily after his winning shot.

There have been more famous visitors as well. LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony were there once as their NBA careers were starting, posing at midcourt with Magic Johnson and Larry Bird. Chris Mullin has gotten shots up there, while Greg Oden and Mike Conley Jr. played there as high schoolers.

The movie even got talked about at NBA All-Star weekend in Indianapolis. Commissioner Adam Silver and No. 1 overall pick Victor Wembanyama were on stage together at the tech summit discussing how artificial intelligence can change the way people view the game. Part of their presentation included a clip from "Hoosiers," a movie that Wembanyama had just been introduced to.

"It's based in Indiana," Silver told Wembanyama. "Parts of it were filmed right down the street here."

Maybe fittingly, there's still the whole David vs. Goliath thing going on, just like in the movie.

New Castle — like Knightstown, part of Henry County — boasts the biggest high school basketball arena in the country, the 8,400-seat New Castle Fieldhouse. The Hoosier Gym might hold 400, tops.

"They'll always tell us that they've got the world's largest high school gym," Loveall said. "And I said, 'Isn't that amazing, in the same county we've got the world's largest — and the world's most famous.' "

Nebraska strengthens its post-season position sinking struggling Indiana 85-70

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLOOMINGTON — Keisei Tominaga scored 20 points and reserve Jamarques Lawrence scored 19 — including all five of his 3-point attempts — as Nebraska fended off an Indiana comeback 85-70 on Wednesday night.

Lawrence finished 6-for-8 shooting overall. He entered the game shooting just 27% from beyond the arc. Brice Williams added 18 points and Juwan Gary 15 for Nebraska which finished 14 for 33 (42.4%) from beyond the arc.

With the win the Cornhuskers (19-8, 9-7 Big Ten) take the season series from the Hoosiers and secured their road win in conference play this season.

Mackenzie Mgbako scored 22 points, Kel'el Ware scored 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and Malik Reneau scored 15 points and distributed six assists for Indiana (14-12, 6-9 Big Ten).

Indiana missed 10 foul shots (14-of-24) and shot just 19% (4-of-21) from beyond the arc.

Nebraska built a 5-0 lead and never trailed. The Cornhuskers stretched the lead to 16-8 and seemed on the verge of running away for good in building a 51-31 halftime lead. Williams threw down a dunk nine seconds in to the second half to give Nebraska its largest lead of the game.

But Indiana got hot and used the next nine minutes to get within 59-56 when CJ Gunn landed a 3 with 11:27 remaining. During Indiana's 25-6 scoring stretch Nebraska failed to score during a 4 1/2-minute stretch.

Despite the rally; however, Nebraska countered when Lawrence made a 3 and Gary and Josiah Allick each made layups to extend the lead back to double digits (66-56) and Indiana never threatened again.

Nebraska, which has won three straight, hosts Minnesota on Sunday.

Indiana has lost three straight and four of five. The Hoosiers travel to Penn State on Saturday (**TV:** Live on BTN at noon).

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Shrewsberry scores 23 — career-high 7 from deep — as Notre Dame tops Louisville 72-50

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Braeden Shrewsberry scored 23 points, including a career-high seven 3-pointers, and Notre Dame rolled past Louisville 72-50 on Wednesday night.

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Shrewsberry — the son of Irish coach Micah Shrewsberry — a span of 28 seconds put Notre Dame ahead 59-45 with 7:17 remaining in the second half. Markus Burton scored the next five Notre Dame points, Carey Booth added a jumper and Shrewsberry connected on his seventh 3-pointer for a 69-47 lead near the four-minute mark. The lead reached 22 once more, when Thomas Crowe hit a 3-pointer in the final half-minute to cap the scoring.

Burton finished with 16 points, five rebounds, three steals and three assists. Booth had nine points and seven rebounds for Notre Dame (10-16, 5-10 ACC), which has won three in a row for the first time this season.

Skyy Clark led Louisville with 18 points on 7-for-8 shooting and he grabbed eight rebounds. Brandon Huntley-Hatfield added 16 points for the Cardinals (8-19, 3-13). Louisville shot 34% for the game.

After a 12-all tie, the Fighting Irish went on a 15-2 run, the last nine points coming on 3-pointers by J.R. Konieczny, Booth and Shrewsberry. Louisville bounced right back with an 8-0 run and Notre Dame missed 10 consecutive shots over the next several minutes. Notre Dame held on to lead 31-25 at halftime.

Notre Dame visits Syracuse on Saturday. Louisville visits No. 8 Duke on Feb. 28.

I need my patients help!

As many of you know the NKDH medical staff decided to promote development of a Jefferson Co YMCA community Health Center.
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5 pm

Pacers' Haliburton thrives in spotlight of a busy NBA All-Star weekend

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton found himself playing a new role on NBA All-Star weekend — host.

He served as Indianapolis' unofficial ambassador. He became a part-time concierge, offering suggestions for restaurant choices and places to visit. He promoted the NBA's 2K esports league, even doubled as a ticket broker. He made a video thanking local fans for their support. And he did all of it in addition to his full-time job.

Yet Haliburton proved himself every bit as valuable, versatile and successful off the court over the past week as he's been on it this season — and did it all with a smile.

"It's been a zoo, it's been a lot, but it's been a lot of fun," he said Saturday afternoon still in the midst of this wild, whirlwind adventure. "I've been told I'm kind of like the prom king of the weekend, so I'm just doing whatever I'm asked to do."

The 23-year-old two-time All-Star never complained. He rarely does.

Instead, Haliburton thrived underneath the bright spotlight of one of the NBA's biggest stages, re-introducing basketball fans to the Pacers, his new hometown and himself as potentially the next star in Indiana's rich hoops tradition.

He shouldered everything from the seemingly endless interviews for TV and being mic'd up for the game to purchasing a luxury suite at the arena because it was more affordable to accommodate all of the ticket requests.

Many All-Star regulars such as LeBron James, Kevin Durant or Damian Lillard, have created plans to navigate what can be a grueling All-Star weekend schedule.

Few, though, play the starring role in front of their home fans. The closest James, Durant or Lillard came was two years ago when James, with the Lakers, returned to Cleveland. Stephen Curry might get his chance next season when San Francisco will host.

But Haliburton, the former Iowa State star who grew up in Wisconsin, got the opportunity in just his second All-Star trip.

The fourth-year pro cherished every moment — his grand entrance at Thursday night's inaugural Opening Celebration in a shiny, blue and gold No. 24 IndyCar; mingling with three Indiana Hall of Fame icons, Larry Bird, Reggie Miller and Oscar Robertson; cheering teammates Bennedict Mathurin and Oscar Tshiebwe in Friday night's Rising Stars games and winning Saturday night's skills challenge with Mathurin and Pacers center Myles Turner before being eliminated in a tiebreaking round of the 3-point contest.

Yet none of it affected Haliburton's play Sunday. He opened the game by making five consecutive 3s, finished with 32 points, seven rebounds and six assists on 11 of 15 shooting and went home after leaving quite an impression.

"His teammates love him, fans love him. I'm excited to watch his career going forward because I know he's going to do some incredible things here in Indiana," Durant said. "But just for the game of basketball as a whole, you can tell he's one of those point guards that the next generation, kids in elementary school, middle school kids will be looking up to."

While Haliburton's hosting duties ended Sunday night, his to-do list remains long.

With 26 games to play, he's trying to lead sixth-seeded Indiana to its first Eastern Conference playoff appearance in four years and his first as a player.

If the Pacers make it, they'll be trying to snap a franchise-record 10-game postseason losing streak and reach the second round for the first time in a decade. And if the Pacers are going to do any of it, Haliburton must lead the way.

He's averaging a career-best 21.8 points and leads the league for the second straight season in assists (11.7 per game), a pace that would be the league's second best since 1995-96 in a system Phoenix guard Devin Booker said is tailor-made for Haliburton and the NBA's highest-scoring team.

Can he do it? He helped eliminate Boston and Milwaukee from the In-Season Tournament before losing to the Lakers in the title game, and the Pacers are 10-6 against the top four teams in the East with all four season series complete.

"I think Tyrese is an absolute star," said Boston guard Jaylen Brown, who had 36 points Sunday. "He's continuing to get better. He's got to play a little defense, but I love him. He's a pass-first, unselfish guy and plays the game the right way with a smile on his face. I'm a big fan of Tyrese."

And now that Haliburton has handed off the hosting duties, he can spend the next couple of days resting and reflecting on what All-Star weekend did for his league-wide reputation.

"The respect that I've gained from my peers and legends means the world to me. Just to keep meeting people where I'm from, that's not really a thing," he said. "There's no chance they even know where Oshkosh, Wisconsin, is. So it means the world to me. I just want to keep doing what I'm doing."

LEGAL

Public Notice

The City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility has issued a draft Industrial permit to SuperATV, a manufacturer of aftermarket parts and accessories for ATVs and UTVs, regulated under Federal Categorical Guidelines for New Source Metal Finishing, 40 CFR 433.17 and the City of Madison Industrial Pretreatment Ordinance, located at 2753 Michigan Road, Madison, Indiana. This permit will be effective fifteen days from the date of this public notice and this public notice initiates the public comment period. A copy of the draft permit is available for review at the City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility located at 1213 West 1st Street Madison, Indiana. Comments on the SuperATV draft Permit must be received by February 28, 2024.

hspaxlp

LEGAL

LEPC 2024 Legal Notice Template (Public Notice)

The Jefferson County Emergency Planning Committee will hold its meetings for the year 2024 at 620 Green Rd Madison, IN 47250 PM at 6:00p.m. on the following dates: Feb 8th, March 14th April 11th, June 13th, August 8th, Oct 10th and Dec 12th other times as shall be duly authorized by act of the Committee or its Chairman. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The Jefferson County Emergency Plan for Hazardous Materials Incidents may be reviewed during regular business hours at the office of Jefferson County Emergency Management 8:00am to 3:00p.m., Madison, IN. All information filed by covered SARA Title III facilities in Jefferson County may be reviewed during regular business hours at the offices of the Jefferson County Emergency Management 8:00am to 3:00p.m., Madison, IN. Copies of documents may be obtained at these offices, and the Committee may charge a fee for copying. For further information on these matters please contact Matt True, Chairman, at (812)265-7616.

hspaxlp

LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY
ESTATE DOCKET 39C01-2402-EU-000011
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED
ESTATE OF
LOUISE ANN LARSEN, DECEASED
William Joseph Jenner, JENNER, PATTISON & SHARPE, 508 E. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250; (812) 265-5132

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LOUISE ANN LARSEN, DECEASED.

Notice is hereby given that Linda Lee Duchesne was, on the 8th day of February, 2022, appointed personal representative of the estate of Louise Ann Larsen, deceased, who died on the 4th day of January, 2024.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 8th day of February, 2024.

/s/ Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, IN

hspaxlp

LEGAL

Canaan Utilities Corporation will hold its annual meeting March 12th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the utility office. Business will include the election of four director positions. All members are invited to attend.

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LEGAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA PLAN COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Jefferson County, Indiana Plan Commission will meet on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 5:30 P.M., at the Surveyor's Office, 315 Jefferson St., Courthouse Annex Bldg., Madison, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss possible reduction of fines on Gilstrap property located at 6089 N SR 7, Madison, IN. The Plan Commission may consider any other business that comes before it at this date and time. BY ORDER OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA PLAN COMMISSION. By: Lynette Anderson, Secretary, Jefferson County Plan Commission.

hspaxlp

LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO. 39C01-2402-EU-000010
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF
MARK A. WILKERSON, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that on February 8, 2024, Kingsley Wilkerson was appointed personal representative of the estate of Mark A. Wilkerson, deceased, who died on January 8, 2024.

All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Madison, Indiana, this February 8, 2024.

Tabatha Eblen
Clerk, Jefferson Circuit Court

hspaxlp

LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO.
39C01-2210-EU-000082
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF
JANIS DIANE SIMPSON, Deceased

ANTHONY J. CASTOR
Attorney at Law
320 Walnut Street
Madison, IN 47250
Telephone: 812/265-6110

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF JANIS DIANE SIMPSON, DECEASED
CAUSE NO.
39C01-2210-EU-000082

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that LORI LITTLE, was, on the 28th day of October, 2022, appointed personal representative of the estate of JANIS DIANE SIMPSON, who died on September 24, 2022.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

DATED at Madison, Indiana, this 28th day of October, 2022.

TABATHA EBLEN, Clerk
Jefferson Circuit Court

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STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NUMBER:
39C01-2311-JC-000051
IN THE MATTER OF:
SGR - DOB 11/26/2015
A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES
AND
AMANDA TAYLOR (MOTHER) AND ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED FATHERS

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING

TO: Any Unknown Alleged Father Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Jefferson Circuit Court, 300 East Main Street, Madison, IN 47250-3537 - 812-265-8930 for a(n) Initial/Fact Finding Hearing on 4/4/2024 at 10:00 AM.

At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing.

UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including child support.

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without further notice.

2/5/2024
Tabatha Eblen
Clerk
Kristen Hamilton, *23782-39
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services 493 West Hutchinson Lane
Madison, IN 47250
Office: 812-265-4379

hspaxlp

LEGAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA, BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Jefferson County, Indiana, Board of Zoning Appeals will meet Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 5:00 o'clock, P.M., at the Surveyor's Office, 315 Jefferson St., Courthouse Annex Bldg., Madison, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss vacancy seat on the board; and to hear an application for variance from developmental standards for an addition to existing home filed by James Riegsecker, property located at 6359 N Graham Road, Madison, IN, parcel number 39-03-35-000-011.000-010, Monroe Township, AG District. The Board of Zoning Appeals may consider any other business that comes before it at this date and time. BY ORDER OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA, BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS. By: Lynette Anderson, Secretary, Jefferson County Board of Zoning Appeals

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LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NUMBER:
39C01-2311-JC-000041
39C01-2311-JC-000042
IN THE MATTER OF:
EB - DOB 4/29/2014
LB - DOB 10/23/2015
CHILDREN ALLEGED TO BE CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES
AND
GUILA LYNN LADWIG (BIOLOGICAL MOTHER)

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING

TO: Guila Lynn Ladwig
Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the children to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Jefferson Circuit Court, 300 East Main Street, Madison, IN 47250-3537 - 812-265-8930 for a(n) Initial/Fact Finding Hearing on 4/11/2024 at 10:00 AM.

At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor children are children in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing.

UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the children; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the children; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the children including child support.

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without further notice.

Tabatha Eblen
Clerk
Kristen Hamilton, *23782-39
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services 493 West Hutchinson Lane
Madison, IN 47250
Office: 812-265-4379

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LEGAL

Plan Commission
Legal Notice
MEETING DATE: MARCH 11, 2024, at 5:30 PM
MEETING PLACE: Madison City Hall, 101 W. Main Street Madison, IN 47250

A. Roll Call
B. Approval of minutes
C. New Applications

1. **SDAH-24-1:** Alexandra Hammock – Advisory Hearing for a proposed subdivision on Parcel 39-08-19-000-005.001-006 consisting of fourteen (14) lots on approximately forty-nine and one-half acres (49.5). Proposed lots range in size from approximately 1.31 to 5.44 acres.
Location: 3801 W Deputy Pike Rd Zoned: Residential Agricultural (RA)

2. **PCAF-24-2:** Matthew Chandler – Application to amend final plat so as to split parcel 39-13-02-241-004.000-007 into two parcels, one for each existing building.
Location: 301 Jefferson St Zoned: Central Business District (CBD)

3. PCAF-24-3: Brian Marshall – Application to amend final plat to reorganize parcels 39-08-35-334-050.000-007 and 39-08-35-334-049.000-007 to allow new construction of an approximate 1920 square foot structure.
Location: 701 and 703 West St Zoned: Central Business District (CBD)

4. **PCGB-24-1**: Joe Pettit – Application for General Business Setbacks. Applicant plans to open a Self-storage complex consisting of approximately 56 storage units. Applicant is requesting setbacks of a zero-lot line on the north lot line, ten (10) feet on the east and south lot lines, and five (5) feet on the west lot line.
Location: 1643 Clifty Dr Zoned: General Business (GB)

5. **PCAP-24-2:** Joe Pettit – Application for Accessible Parking Plan. Applicant plans to open a Self-storage complex consisting of approximately 56 storage units. Applicant is required to provide three (3) total parking stalls with one (1) ADA parking stall and plans to provide a total of four (4) parking stalls with one (1) ADA parking stall. Additional temporary parking available throughout complex next to storage units for customer use while accessing units.
Location: 1643 Clifty Dr Zoned: General Business (GB)

D. Adjournment
E. Next Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024 at 5:30 PM

For the purpose of hearing those for or against said applications, a public hearing will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:30 PM in City Hall, 101 W. Main St., Madison, IN 47250.

BY ORDER OF THE MADISON CITY PLAN COMMISSION
Joe Patterson,
Associate Planner

As per Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for affective communication, should contact the Madison City Plan Commission at 812-265-8324 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.

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LEGAL

Board of Zoning Appeals
Legal Notice
MEETING DATE: MARCH 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM
MEETING PLACE: Madison City Hall-Council Chambers

A. Roll Call
B. Approval of Minutes
C. Renewals

1. John & Lori Heitz – Conditional Use Permit for a restaurant.
Location: 842 W Main St Zoned: Historic District Residential (HDR)
Two-Year Renewal

2. Daniel Butler, DMD – Conditional Use Permit for a dental office.
Location: 502 Jefferson St Zoned: Historic District Residential (HDR)
Two-Year Renewal

3. Steve Buchanan – Conditional Use Permit for a four (4) bay self-service carwash.
Location: 814 W Third St Zoned: Local Business (LB)
One-Year Renewal

4. Sedam Contracting, LLC – Conditional Use Permit for a location to accept dirt, concrete, asphalt for reuse/recycle; sales of stone, sand, landscaping products; and rental of construction equipment and supplies.
Location: 2910 Wilson Ave Zoned: Light Manufacturing (M-1)
One-Year Renewal

5. The White Barn Venue, LLC (Bryan J. Dews, Member; and Lela M. Dews, Member) – Conditional Use Permit for the operation of a rustic barn venue with an emphasis on weddings. All events to conclude by 11pm.
Location: 160 Goins Rd / 501 Thomas Hill Rd Zoned: Residential Agricultural (RA)
One-Year Renewal

6. Glenna Hanks Wade – Conditional Use Permit for a guest house.
Location: 620 W Second St Zoned: Historic District Residential (HDR)
One-Year Renewal

7. Cory Hankins & Erin Dickerson – Conditional Use Permit to allow for camping and other similar uses during festival weekends and other holidays and events.
Location: 502, 504, and 510 E Vaughn Dr Zoned: Open Space (OS)
One-Year Renewal

8. Albertson Investment Group – Conditional Use Permit for a short-term rental and seasonal home for the owner.
Location: 1017 Park Ave Zoned: Historic District Residential (HDR)
One-Year Renewal

D. Tabled Applications

1. **BZVD-23-22:** Laura Studebaker – Variance from Development Standards for setbacks for construction of detached garage at the end of the driveway. Applicant is requesting a one-foot setback on the east lot line.
Location: 1497 E Wehner Dr Zoned: Low Density Residential (R-4)

2. **BZCU-24-4:** Tirrie Jenkins/Legacy of Hope – Conditional Use Permit for a Rooming and Boarding House to provide housing to individuals and families seeking immediate housing who are agreeable to sharing the housing space.
Location: 524 Jefferson St Zoned: Historic District Residential (HDR)

E. Motion to adjourn
F. Next meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024

For the purpose of hearing those for or against said applications, a public hearing will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM in City Hall, 101 W. Main Street Madison, IN 47250.

BY ORDER OF THE MADISON CITY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Joe Patterson,
Associate Planner

As per Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for affective communication, should contact the Madison City Plan Commission at 812-265-8324 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.

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With 12-team playoff set, CFP already discussing more teams for 2026, beyond

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Now that the yearslong process to finalize how the 12 teams for the expanded College Football Playoff will be selected for the next two seasons is complete, there are already discussions about maybe adding more teams for 2026 and beyond.

The CFP management committee discussed the potential of a 14-team bracket on Wednesday, along with governance of the playoff and the distribution of growing revenue after the next two seasons. But the 10 FBS conference commissioners and Notre Dame's incoming athletic director did not reach any conclusions after meeting for nearly nine hours in a hotel at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

"Really productive, very collegial, very collaborative," ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips said. "Not everybody loves everything all the time. It's just one of those things when you have 11 different entities. But I think really a positive meeting."

That commissioners met a day after university presidents and chancellors who oversee the playoffs approved the format for the five highest-ranked conference champions and seven at-large teams for the playoff field that triples in size for the upcoming season. CFP managers first started working on an expansion plan in 2019, though the pandemic likely slowed down some of the progress.

The timing is more pressing now on pending and potentially contentious issues, like money, since there is no contract in place for the CFP past the 2025 season.

"Today was good in that it created that sense of 'let's keep working even faster,' " Big Ten Commissioner Tony Petitti said.

The CFP and ESPN have agreed in principle to a six-year contract extension that runs through the 2031 football season that's worth about $1.3 billion annually. But that deal isn't done because issues related to revenue distribution and governance have to be worked out.

ESPN already has exclusive rights for the semifinals and championship games the next two seasons, but broadcasts for the additional early-round games this year and next still have to be settled since the 12-team format took effect before the end of the current deal.

LEGAL NOTICE

Madison Township, Jefferson County, Indiana
Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2023

	Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan. 1, 2023	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec. 31, 2023
Governmental Activities	1	Fire Fighting	$92,036.72	$160,920.19	$145,713.00	$107,243.91
	2	Township	$238,351.57	$99,644.90	$88,378.36	$249,618.11
	3	Township Assistance	$224,079.08	$141,838.41	$80,231.77	$285,685.72
		Total All Funds	**$554,467.37**	**$402,403.50**	**$314,323.13**	**$642,547.74**

CERTIFICATION
State of Indiana
SS:
Jefferson County

I, Kevin S. Fry , Trustee of MADISON TOWNSHIP, Jefferson County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report contains the information required by Indiana code 36-6-4-13, and is, true and correct; that the amounts with which I am charged in this report are all of the amounts received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the amounts stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or to any other person. A complete abstract that contains the statements required under Indiana Code 36-6-4-13(a)(5) and (a)(6) is available for inspection in the county auditor's office.

I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.

Kevin S. Fry
MADISON TOWNSHIP Trustee
Telephone: 812-265-3217
Date this report was to be published:
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of MADISON TOWNSHIP at its annual meeting, this 8th day of February, 2024.
Myron Eaglin, Township Board Chairman

This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 8th day of February, 2024.
Township Board:
Myron M. Eaglin
Patricia A. Wallace
Marilyn R. Hutchinson

AUCTION

Sat., February 24th 10 a.m.
Venture Out Business Center, 975 Industrial Dr., Madison, IN
Super Selection -viewing at 9 a.m.

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0700 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

OKLAND CITY- Congratulations to Oakland City Eye Care. They are building a new office and moving down Main Street. The 2 building they are in now are for sale and in very good condition. Many business opportunities, office space, apartments, etc. $75,000. Call Darryl with Hollinden Realty at 812-843-5833.

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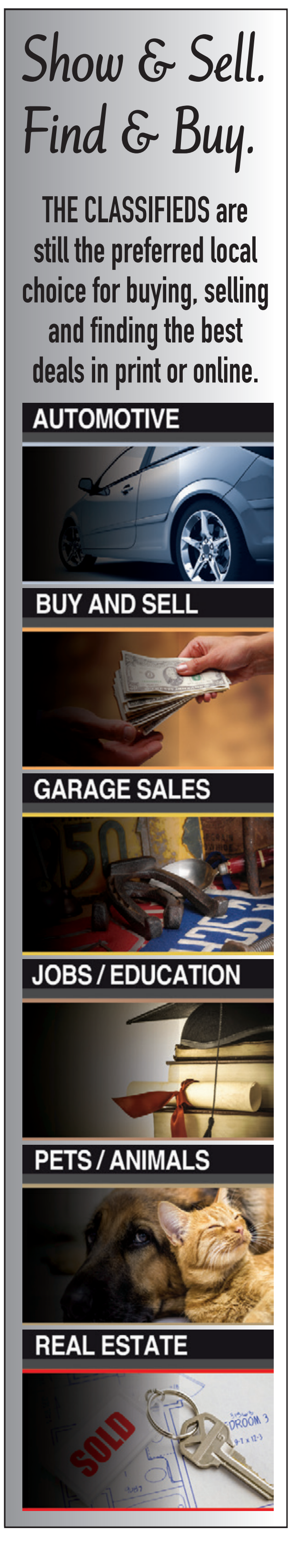
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Chicago Bears add King as their 1st-ever female assistant coach

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — The Chicago Bears have hired Jennifer King as their first female coach in franchise history working as an offensive assistant with running backs.

Coach Matt Eberflus filled out his staff Wednesday by announcing the final six members.

Chris Beatty will coach wide receivers with Chad Morton in charge of running backs. Thomas Brown will be the offensive passing game coordinator, Jason Houghtaling the assistant offensive line coach and Robbie Picazo an offensive assistant working with quarterbacks and receivers.

King became the first Black female in NFL history to serve as a primary position coach in 2021 with Washington. She first was hired by Washington in 2020 as an offensive intern, and she spent the past three seasons as an assistant running backs coach.

She played 12 seasons as a seven-time All-American quarterback and wide receiver for the Carolina Phoenix women's tackle football team from 2006-17.

Brown has 13 years of experience, including the past four in the NFL. He was offensive coordinator for the Carolina Panthers in 2023 after working the three previous seasons with the Rams.

Beatty is a former CFL player who was wide receivers coach for the Los Angeles Chargers the past three seasons. He also has 15 seasons of coaching experience in college.

A seven-year NFL veteran, Morton spent the previous 10 seasons in various roles for the Seattle Seahawks. He has coached 15 seasons in the NFL. Picazo has coached 11 years, the past two with Seattle and Houston.

Houghtaling spent the past three seasons with the Tennessee Titans, the final as offensive line coach.

Woods' son taking first step toward playing on PGA Tour

HOBE SOUND, Fla. — The 15-year-old son of Tiger Woods is taking the first step toward trying to play on the PGA Tour. Charlie Woods is entered in a pre-qualifier for the Cognizant Classic.

The pre-qualifier for Woods is Thursday at Lost Lake Golf Club. The top 25 and ties advance to the Monday qualifier, where four players earn a spot in the field.

The PGA Tour said on its website Woods will play alongside Olin Browne Jr. and Ruaidhri McGee. Browne, whose father is a three-time winner on the PGA Tour, played in the U.S. Open last year at Los Angeles Country Club.

Charlie Woods is no stranger to the stage. Tiger Woods has played with his son four times in the PNC Championship, a 36-hole tournament in which a major champion or a Players Championship winner teams up with a family member.

Tiger Woods, who withdrew from the Genesis Invitational last week with the flu, never won the tournament — formerly known as the Honda Classic — in four tries. He has not said when he will play next.

Olympic equestrian champ cleared of violence in domestic dispute case

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Olympic equestrian champion Kevin Staut was cleared by a French court on Thursday of assaulting his former partner, his lawyer told the Associated Press.

Staut and Norwegian horse rider Marie Valdar Longem had accused each other of violence following an argument in a Bordeaux hotel room in February last year, when Staut was competing at the indoor Jumping International de Bordeaux.

A court in the French city of Lisieux fined Longem 1,500 euros ($1,600) for her actions in the altercation. She will appeal the ruling.

Speaking to the AP in a phone interview, Staut's lawyer Fanny Colin welcomed the court decision: "His innocence is proven. She has been found guilty."

The court ruling was not immediately available.

Staut was part of the French team that won the gold medal in the jumping team final at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Speaking to the AP, Longem's lawyer Antonin Levy said his client was determined to continue her legal action "to make sure that all the women who are victims of violence in sport can be heard."

Levy said an appeal ruling was not expected before the Paris Olympics, where both riders hope to compete.

Unless the public prosecutor decides to appeal the decision to discharge Staut, he will not return to court, Colin said, because Longem can challenge only her own sentencing, not the decision to acquit Staut.

According to Levy, the dispute started after Longem took Staut's mobile phone to check whether she could find messages proving he was having an affair.

Longem said she was headbutted and left with her nose bleeding. She claimed Staut left the room without checking on her condition, giving her a middle finger.

Staut's account of the events was totally different. He said he was sleeping when he was awoken by Longem, who leaned heavily on his left knee, and she injured her nose by banging it against his forehead. He accused Longem of pushing him against a wall with both legs.

Levy said Longem tried to report the violence at a local police station but was unable to do so because nobody spoke English. She had to wait until her return to Norway to launch legal action via mail when she found out Staut was accusing her, too.

Levy said the court ruled that Staut should be discharged in the case because the headbutt was not voluntary.

"Marie Valdar Longem is shocked by the incomprehensible decision of the Lisieux criminal court, which has decided to believe Kevin Staut's version of the facts, despite numerous elements presented to the court that contradicted his account," Longem's defense team said in a statement.

FRIDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	Password		Dateline NBC (N)				WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	S.W.A.T. (N)		Fire (N)		Blue Bloods (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Password		Dateline NBC (N)				News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	Penn (N)		Funny..	Animals	News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	Shark Tank (N)		20/20 (N)				News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	Shark Tank (N)		20/20 (N)				News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Comm..	Week	Great Performances (N)			NEXT	
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	Fri. Night SmackDown (N)				FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	S.W.A.T. (N)		Fire (N)		Blue Bloods (N)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	Penn (N)		Funny..	Animals	BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	WDR..	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	Fri. Night SmackDown (N)				WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		First48
AMC	29	26	(5:00) 🎥★★★ The Perfect Storm				🎥★★★★ The Shawshank Redemption ('94)						Movie
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Movie
DISC	31	38	Gold Rush		Gold Rush		Gold Rush (N)		(:10) Hustlers (N)		(:10) Hustlers		GoldR..
DISN	25	29	Hamst..	Hamst..	Big City	Big City	🎥★★★ Up ('09) Ed Asner.			(:45) Kiff	(:10) Kiff	(:35) Kiff	Big City
ESPN	32	44	SportsCenter		NBA	NBA Basketball					(:05) NBA Basketball		
FREE	18	40	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	700Club
FX	40	28	(4:30) 🎥★★★ Cars		🎥★★ Cars 2 ('11) Owen Wilson.					🎥★★ Cars 3 ('17) Owen Wilson.			
HBO	201	17	Movie	(:55) Enthusiasm		(:35) 🎥★★★ The Color Purple ('23)					TBA		True
MAX	270	73	Movie	(:35) 🎥★ The Animal ('01)			🎥★★ Body of Lies ('08)				(:10) 🎥★★ Taken 3 ('14)		
NEWSNTN	20	20	The Hill (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	🎥★★★ The Wolf of Wall Street ('13) Leonardo DiCaprio.						
SHOW	221	16	(4:45) 🎥 Dreamgi...		🎥 Everything Everywhere All at Once					🎥 Last Voyage of the Demeter			
TMC	233	74	(:20) 🎥 Murina ('21)				🎥★★★ Silence ('16) Andrew Garfield. (P)					(:45) 🎥 Exorcist	
TNT	27	43	(4:15) 🎥 Star Wa...		🎥★★★ Star Wars: Return of the Jedi ('83)						Rampage (N)		Movie
USA	26	33	Chicago Fire		Chi. Fire (N)		Chi. Fire (N)		Chi. Fire (N)		Chi. Fire (N)		Chi.Fire

SATURDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	Chefs	Song	The Wall		Weakest Link		SNL		WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	Sheldon	Honori..	So Help Me		48 Hours		48 Hours (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News (N)		NBCN..	Let'sT..	The Wall		Weakest Link		SNL		News
8 WISH	12		(5:30) College Basketball			(:45) Basketball Florida State at Clemson (N)					News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	WiseM..	Cash	NBA	NBA Basketball					News
11 WHAS	11	4	World..	News	Ent. Tonight (N)		NBA	NBA Basketball					News
15 WKPC	13		Antiques		TimFa..	RedGr..	Kentuc..	Kentucky Afield	🎥★★★★ Shane ('53) Alan Ladd.				
19 WXIX	10		(4:30) MLS Soccer		Tip-Off (N)		College Basketball				FOX19 (N)		Floor
32 WLKY	5	5	WLK..	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	So Help Me		48 Hours		48 Hours (N)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	(5:30) College Basketball			(:45) Basketball Florida State at Clemson (N)					The Rookie		9-1-1
41 WDRB	8	9	(4:30) MLS Soccer		Tip-Off (N)		College Basketball				WDRB News		Floor
A&E	28	36	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		First48
AMC	29	26	(5:00) 🎥 Shawshank Redemption				🎥 Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1					🎥 Hunger Gam...	
COM	45	59	Movie	🎥★★ Daddy's Home ('15)				🎥★★ Couples Retreat ('09) Vince Vaughn.					Movie
DISC	31	38	Afraid XL "Legendary Fail"				Naked and Afraid XL				Naked and Afraid XL		
DISN	25	29	Big City	Hailey	Hailey	Hailey	🎥★★★ Encanto ('21)			Marvel..	Marvel..	Marvel..	Hamst..
ESPN	32	44	Basketball Texas at Kansas (N)				College Basketball				Basketball USC at UCLA		
FREE	18	40	(:20) 🎥★★ Jumanji ('95) Robin Williams.					(:50) 🎥★★ Aladdin ('19) Mena Massoud, Will Smith.					
FX	40	28	(5:00) 🎥 Captain America: Winter S...				🎥★★★ Guardians of the Galaxy ('14)					🎥 Guardians of ...	
HBO	201	17	(:10) 🎥 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit				🎥★★★ Priscilla ('23) (P)				(:55) True		Enthus..
MAX	270	73	(:20) 🎥★★★ Fargo ('96)				🎥★★★ Green Room ('15)			(:35) 🎥★★ Jennifer's Body			Movie
NEWSNTN	20	20	Blue Bloods		Decision Desk '24 (N) (Live)						Decision Desk '24		
PARMT	35	41	(4:30) 🎥 Hangove...		🎥★★★ The Hangover ('09) Bradley Cooper.					🎥★★ The Hangover Part II ('11)			
SHOW	221	16	(4:45) 🎥 Love & ...		🎥 Kokomo City		(:15) 🎥★★★ The Wolf of Wall Street ('13)						Movie
TMC	233	74	🎥★★★ Road to Perdition ('02) (P)				🎥 The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (P)					🎥 Headhunters	
TNT	27	43	(4:45) 🎥★★★ American Gangster				Wrestling: Collision (N) (Live)				🎥★★★ Black Panther		
USA	26	33	(4:30) B..	911Cri..	9-1-1 "Red Flag"		9-1-1		9-1-1 "Recovery"		9-1-1		9-1-1

SUNDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	America's Got "Finale Results"				Dateline NBC				WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	60 Minutes (N)		Equalizer (N)		Tracker (N)		CSI: Vegas (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	America's Got "Finale Results"				Dateline NBC				News
8 WISH	12		News	FamFe..	🎥★★★ Hidden Figures ('16) Taraji P. Henson.						News	Sports	News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	Fun Videos (N)		Amer. Idol "702 (Auditions)" (N)				What Would		News
11 WHAS	11	4	World..	News	Fun Videos (N)		Amer. Idol "702 (Auditions)" (N)				What Would		News
15 WKPC	13		Last/..	KeepUp	Hotel Portofino		Agatha Christie		Agatha Christie		Agatha Christie		Princess
19 WXIX	10		(3:00) N..	PaidPr..	Next Level Chef		Simpso..	Krapo..	-North	Grims..	FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	CBSN..	WLK..	60 Minutes (N)		Equalizer (N)		Tracker (N)		CSI: Vegas (N)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	BigBa..	BigBa..	🎥★★★ Hidden Figures ('16) Taraji P. Henson.						Good Dr		ModF..
41 WDRB	8	9	(3:00) N..	Friends	Next Level Chef		Simpso..	Krapo..	-North	Grims..	WDRB News		Worry
A&E	28	36	WWE Rivals		WWE Rivals		WWE Rivals		Biography "Randy Orton" (N) (SP)				WWE..
AMC	29	26	(:55) 🎥★★★ The Hunger Games: Catching Fire ('13)						Dead (N) (P)		(:20) Dead "Years"		
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office
DISC	31	38	Afraid "Death by Crocodile" (N)				Afraid "There Will Be Blood" (N)				Afraid		Afraid
DISN	25	29	Big City	Kiff	Kiff	Kiff	🎥★★★ Coco ('17)			(:50) Kiff	(:20) Kiff		LEGO
ESPN	32	44	NBA		NBA Basketball					(:35) NBA Basketball			
FREE	18	40	(5:40) 🎥★★ National Treasure ('04)					(:50) 🎥★★ National Treasure: Book of Secrets ('07)					
FX	40	28	(4:30) 🎥★★ Eternals ('21)				🎥★★ Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness						Movie
HBO	201	17	(4:40) 🎥 Avatar: Way of Water				(:55) 🎥★★ San Andreas ('15)				Enthus..	Enthus..	LastW..
MAX	270	73	Movie	(:25) 🎥★★★ Source Code			🎥★★★ A Most Violent Year ('14)				(:05) 🎥 Bourne Ultimatum		
NEWSNTN	20	20	Blue Bloods		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation		NewsN..
PARMT	35	41	Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue (SP)		BarRe..
SHOW	221	16	(:20) The Woman		(:20) The Woman		(:15) Mayor of		The Woman		🎥 Last Voyage of the De...		
TMC	233	74	(5:30) 🎥★★★ Into the Wild ('07)				🎥 A River Runs Through It (P)				(:05) 🎥★★★ Pretty Baby		
TNT	27	43	(3:30) N..	Post-G..	🎥★★★ Black Panther ('18) Chadwick Boseman.						🎥 Rogue One: A Star W...		
USA	26	33	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-S..

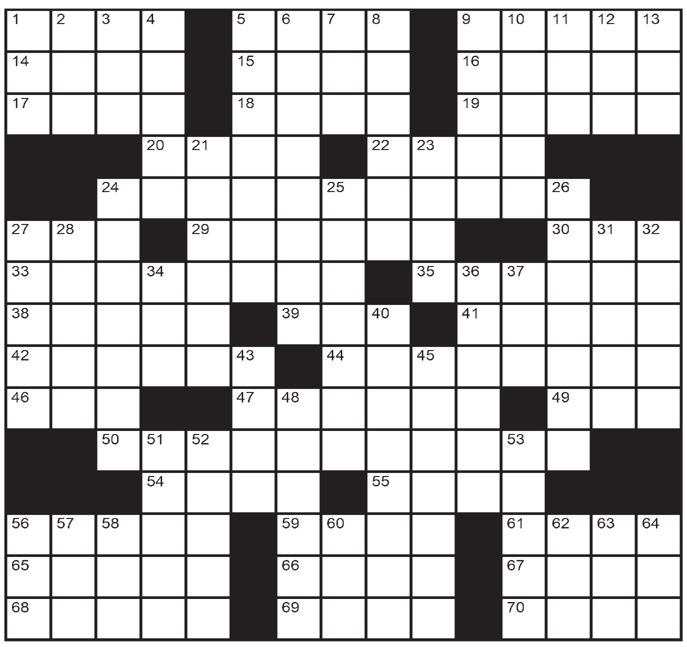
MONDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	The Voice (N) (SP)			Deal or No (N) (P)			WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Neighb..	BobHe..	NCIS (N)		NCIS (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	The Voice (N) (SP)			Deal or No (N) (P)			News
8 WISH	12		News	Section..	Inside..	ET (N)	Ride		Wild Cards		News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	The Bachelor (N)				Bad Rom (N)		News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	The Bachelor (N)				Bad Rom (N)		News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Kentucky (N)		Black Horse.		Inspired (N)		BBCN..
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	Wanted (N) (SF)		TMZ Invest		FOX19		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Neighb..	BobHe..	NCIS (N)		NCIS (N)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	Ride		Wild Cards		BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	WDR..	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	Wanted (N) (SF)		TMZ Invest		WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	The First 48		The First 48		Hoarders Canada				Secrets of (N)		First48
AMC	29	26	🎥★★★ Die Hard ('88) Alan Rickman, Bruce Willis.						🎥★★★ Tombstone ('93) Kurt Russell.				
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	DailyS..
DISC	31	38	Contraband		Contraband		Contraband		Contraband		Contraband		Contra..
DISN	25	29	Hamst..	Hamst..	Big City	Big City	Hailey	Hailey	Marvel..	Ladyb..	Ladyb..	Ladyb..	Jessie
ESPN	32	44	SportsCenter		College Basketball				Basketball Baylor at TCU (N)				Sports..
FREE	18	40	🎥★★★ Ratatouille ('07) Patton Oswalt.					🎥★★★ Moana ('16) Dwayne Johnson.					700Club
FX	40	28	(5:00) 🎥 Mission: Impossible -- Gho...				🎥★★★ Mission: Impossible -- Fallout ('18)						Movie
HBO	201	17	(5:30) 🎥★★ Sex and the City ('08)				🎥★★★ Furious 7 ('15) Vin Diesel.				(:20) Enthusiasm		Movie
MAX	270	73	(:05) 🎥★★★ Appaloosa ('08)				🎥 Hot Summer Nights			(:50) 🎥★★★ Ingrid Goes West ('17)			
NEWSNTN	20	20	The Hill (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	🎥★★ Fast & Furious ('09) Vin Diesel.					🎥★★ Fast Five	
SHOW	221	16	🎥★★★ Collateral ('04)				Halo (N)		Star Trek		Sexy Beast		Movie
TMC	233	74	(:15) 🎥 Rumba Love ('21)				🎥★★ Shall We Dance?			(:50) 🎥★★★ Hope Springs ('12)			
TNT	27	43	Movie	Match	Capital One's The Match (N) (Live)						🎥★★★ Rudy ('93)		
USA	26	33	(5:30) 🎥★★ Bad News Bears ('05)				WWE Monday Night RAW (N) (Live)						Contin..

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

1 Dear __ letter
5 Green vehicle, briefly
9 Zoomed
14 Region
15 Part of a windmill
16 Essential __ acids
17 List of dishes
18 Abbr. on a shingle
19 Help to improve
20 Actress Russo
22 iPhone 15 connector type, for short
24 1994 John Travolta film
27 Pedicure spot
29 Fell from the sky
30 She-sheep
33 Gallery owner's milieu
35 Economy portion
38 Grand __ National Park
39 "Slippery" fish
41 Sell out
42 List of meeting topics
44 Instructional tales
46 Swe. neighbor
47 Hanukkah carbs
49 NYC summer hrs.
50 Even so
54 Phone message
55 Good, better, __
56 Religious donation
59 Notion
61 Type of vaccine or exam
65 Felt sore
66 Clears
67 Zero in tennis
68 English nobles
69 Simplicity
70 Looked over

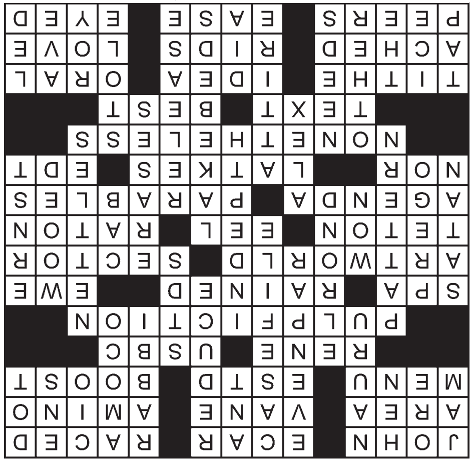


Created by Stella Zawistowski 2/23/24

DOWN

1 Jelly relative
2 Earth deposit
3 Rooster's mate
4 Pacific microstate
5 Good golf score
6 Detective's dossier
7 Aardvark's prey
8 Lessen
9 Shul leader
10 BP subsidiary brand
11 AFL-__
12 Naval rank (Abbr.)
13 URL part
21 Rivendell ruler
23 Agreed-on guidelines: Abbr.
24 Dressmaker's guide
25 Not superficial
26 Stinging plants
27 The Evil One
28 With a bun in the oven
31 Tried to seduce
32 ___ & Young
34 Was victorious
36 Rubs off
37 Red wine variety, for short
40 Bottoms of some bodies of water
43 TV's Trebek
45 Let go
48 Clothing
51 Not this or that
52 Requirements
53 Took without permission
56 Gene Kelly's dance style
57 Drink cooler
58 Definite article
60 Day in Spanish
62 Cowboy legend Rogers
63 Broad city street: Abbr.
64 Helmed

Today's Puzzle Solved



Stylist doesn't want to cut customer

AMY
DICKINSON
ASK AMY

Dear Amy: I work in a busy hair salon. I have many loyal customers, and while they're in the chair, we talk a lot and share personal information.

Recently, I was on an online site where people anonymously post items (with photos) detailing how they are "dating" someone who is cheating on their spouse or partner.

While scrolling through for my own weird entertainment, I saw a photo of my client "Julie's" husband.

I'm dreading seeing Julie for her next appointment. Should I tell her I've seen this? Should I leave it alone because it's really none of my business? Should I pack up my implements and move to another state?

— Only the Messenger

Dear Messenger: First, you should ask yourself if you would want to know if your partner was cheating on you. I assume you would. Would you want to be told face-to-face (or face-to-mirror) by your hair stylist? I assume you would not.

Find a way to tell "Julie" anonymously.

You might be able to do this by taking a screenshot or a photo of the posting (or copying the link) and sending it to her from someone else's phone, with a message saying something like, "Someone I know asked me to send this to you."

Dear Amy: My dad died many years ago, and his estate was handled solely by his widow. My sister has been digging up records and bringing me into her world of conspiracy and legal vengeance concerning his death and estate.

I've told her that I can't go down this road with her, but, if it's what she needs to do, that I'd support her decision. Recently, she tried again to drag me in, and I repeated that I still support HER need, but I've moved on and don't want to hear it. She became very angry and said this isn't what she had envisioned when I said I'd support her. How can I set clear boundaries and protect my own emotions while remaining empathetic and heal our relationship?

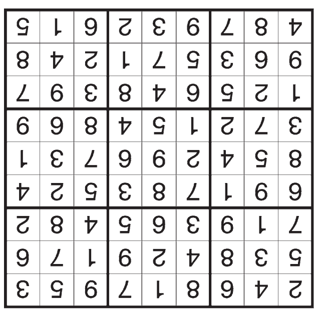
— Tired and Defeated

Dear Tired: You have already set clear boundaries. This is a good choice for you, but it doesn't mean that your sister will like your limits. Your sister seems to want help, agreement and assent. But if you can't offer these things (or don't want to offer them), you can only repeat another version, gently stating, "I'm not judging you. I support your right to do whatever you want to do. I'm sorry that I'm not giving you all that you want, but I want to have a good sisterly relationship. I will always support you emotionally, and I always have your back, but I can't help you with this."

Emotionally supporting someone does not mean you need to sign off on their choices.

SUDOKU

		6			7			3
	3			2				
7	1						8	
	9	1					2	
	5		2		6		3	
	7				4	8		
	2						9	7
				7				
4			9			6		



ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may have set goals for yourself which require sincere dedication to accomplish. Both the outdoors and your friends might be calling with fun things to do. Choose between today's fun and tomorrow's accomplishments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You might welcome new people with open arms into your social circle if you are feeling positive and optimistic. Regardless of who you're dealing with, make promises very carefully and keep them unfailingly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It is better to be proactive rather than reactive in many important matters. Put energy into maintaining the things you will continue to need, like your mental and physical health and wellbeing. Make a list of priorities.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Take care now in aligning yourself with the right people and the right projects to meet up with your future. Talk to everyone involved and negotiate what will be needed to keep everyone onboard and filled with enthusiasm.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — In an urgency to start something new, you might be inclined to agree to things you may not be confident you can do properly. Follow through on a commitment; broken promises always have long-lasting consequences.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — All you can be sure of are the ideas that you bring to the table yourself. Before you sit down to talk, make sure that you know how to best move forward. When you understand the game, you're equipped to succeed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Dating can be hard, and apps may just confuse the issue. Even with your goals in mind, you can learn to enjoy the moment. You don't always know what is ultimately best, so try not to be too attached to outcomes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Equality is crucial but it's still a good idea to let the expert have the last word and ultimate control. Now may not be the time to criticize, being supportive is likely to be more helpful and productive now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Be precise and uplifting when dealing with family members who could be running on a tight schedule. You may be able to show more enthusiasm at work or when you are busy with a special project.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't let the little details escape your notice. Try not to miss any of the fine print on a financial transaction. Use detail-oriented skills to double check your accounts or handle complicated calculations.

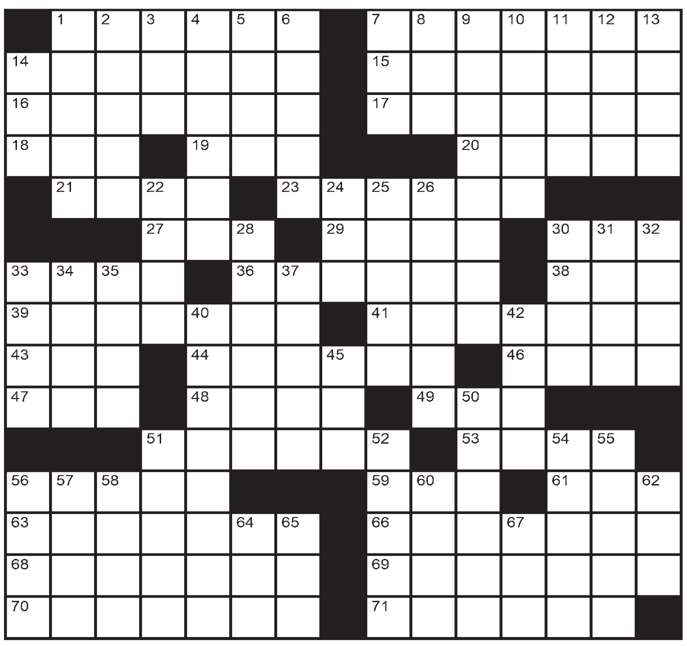
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — A desire to shower someone with affection might be welcomed by family members and loved ones. It's doubtful that anyone will care too much if you tend to go overboard or become a bit extravagant once in a while.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Anticipate possible opposition from unforeseen directions if you try to start a new project. Some may be relevant and some may be a complete waste of time. Do your best to deal with it all as gracefully as possible.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

1 Ancient rival of Athens
7 Big name in file sharing, once
14 The T in ATV
15 How pie may be served
16 Circle in your pocket
17 Suitable for teens
18 The Thunder, on scoreboards
19 Artificially color
20 Statistical pattern
21 Very dry
23 Bemoan
27 Shelter sound
29 Adore
30 Obedience-school command
33 Refuse to deal with
36 Oblong pastry
38 Low digit
39 More yummy
41 Raleigh univ.
43 Resource in the ground
44 The Phillies' div.
46 Music player discontinued in 2022
47 Each
48 Top spot at a table
49 Male offspring
51 Goethe's language
53 Beehive State people
56 More unusual
59 Letters on an ambulance
61 Tear
63 Gold coins of the UK, once
66 Preordained occasion
68 Melodramatic motive
69 Liquid in a forest
70 Forgiving waistband type
71 Waitstaff member

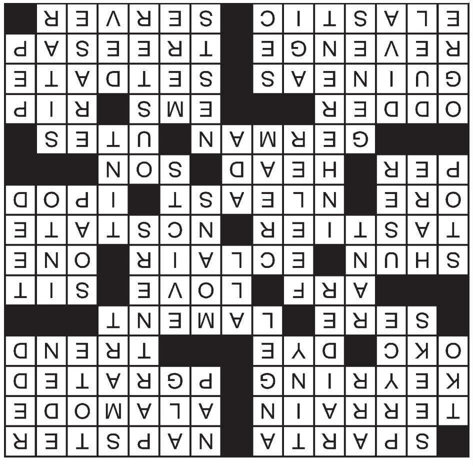


Created by Stella Zawistowski 2/24/24

DOWN

1 Looks for
2 Jonathan of "Wolf Hall"
3 LAX listing
4 Las Vegas NFL player
5 Itsy-bitsy
6 Virtuous person
7 Short sleep
8 Trig precursor: Abbr.
9 Law firm bigwigs
10 Brainy
11 Reusable bag
12 Biblical paradise
13 "SNL" alum Chris
14 End of some MMA matches
22 Tirade
24 __ or nothing
25 Complains loudly
26 Kicks out
28 Insect's antenna
30 Bar in the shower
31 Liking a lot
32 Ready to hit, as a golf ball
33 Word on a red octagon
34 Loser to the tortoise
35 Account holder, e.g.
37 Defeat badly
40 Innate
42 Windshield feature
45 Nabokov novel
50 Removal from office
51 Units of heredity
52 Hotbeds
54 Wipe off, as a whiteboard
55 Indian lute
56 Fearsome boss
57 Contest with swords or pistols
58 Opera star
60 Only
62 Word before "squad" or "rally"
64 Form 1040 calc.
65 "Be with you in a __!"
67 Partner of research: Abbr.

Today's Puzzle Solved



Parents on the fence over adultery

AMY
DICKINSON
ASK AMY

Dear Amy: My wonderful daughter and her husband have been together for 15 years.

They met in college and have been together since the time of their very first meeting.

We genuinely love her husband, "Danny," and consider him our son.

They have a 1-year-old child, and we absolutely adore our grandson.

Danny's job is challenging, and he is very successful. Our daughter is taking a break from her own career to be home with their baby because Danny travels a lot.

Last weekend, our daughter told us that Danny has cheated on her. She is devastated, and so are we. We are so disappointed in him and feel completely deceived by him.

Our daughter told us that she and Danny are trying to work things out. She says they intend to stay together and that she absolutely wants to stay married to him.

We worry about her self-esteem and think it's not a good idea for her to stay married to someone who has been unfaithful to her.

My wife and I want her to call a lawyer, but we are torn about sharing our opinion with her.

What do you think?

— Torn Parents

Dear Parents: Couples do recover from episodes of cheating.

When it comes to your daughter's marriage, it's a mistake for you to attach to a specific outcome.

If she asks for your advice about what you believe she should do, you should be honest with her. Otherwise, keep your opinion to yourself.

If you share your view, you should also say that you understand this is complicated, that it is her marriage — not yours — and that you will absolutely be in her corner, no matter what.

If she stays with her husband, you should also be honest with him. Tell him (privately) you're disappointed in his choice but that you hope they can recover.

If you put him down or react with anger, you may paint your daughter into a difficult corner.

She could feel the need to defend him and thus distance herself from you.

SUDOKU

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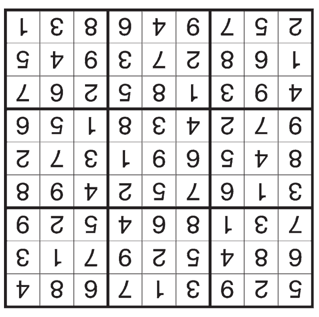

ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Be true to yourself as well as others. Powerful ambitions can be realized if you put in the effort and spend time with the right people. You may meet someone who is inspiring and motivates you to be your best self.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — A new romantic interest may be complicated by the fact that they have a past. Instead of being supportive, a friend may not have a clue. Tell the truth and be rewarded by trust and a new and deeper understanding.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Policies and regulations may seem to bring non-stop aggravation. The people you would like to see could be too busy to help at this time. Anything started now might well take much longer than it should.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Follow the lead of people who are enthusiastic and energetic. Inspiring experiences may add to your knowledge and widen your horizons. Find ways to turn your home into a comfortable oasis.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Promises made with the best of intentions may be derailed by other people with different agendas. Be confident that you have the skills and ability to keep your word. Stay honest with yourself and your partners.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Your decisions might be complicated by people forcing their agenda. It may be easier to let go and let them have their way. Work with your friends to overcome any setbacks and take ownership of your plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Your creative ideas may be opposed by people dedicated to their own plans, but who think they should have a stake in your work too. Don't let your vision be compromised by any random or uneducated input.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Be careful if you're seeking advice. People may be considering factors other than your success when they offer help. Look for second and third opinions, and don't stop just because you hear an answer you like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You can enjoy an abundance of blessings if you follow the golden rule. Treat others with the same respect and consideration that you would like to be shown. Show your affection toward loved ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Tap into a reservoir of enthusiasm to pursue creative and entertaining activities. Like a sculptor, you can chip away at obstacles until the best parts are revealed. You may be attracted to fun purchases.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — If you happen to be facing some challenges in your life or finances, this may be a good time to assess your dealings and decide on a new plan. Think about the long-term consequences of any choices made now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — A new venture might be put at risk by the wrong timing. Avoid most easy short cuts and focus on core essentials now. Following crucial guidelines may slow you down a little but will avoid future problems.

CAREER

FROM **PAGE B1**

Eminence in the semifinals of the 31st District Tournament at Carroll County next Thursday, Feb. 29.

TRIMBLE BOYS FALL TO KCD

Trimble County boys basketball suffered a 73-42 loss at home to Kentucky Country Day on Monday.

Ethan Horn had 12 points to lead the Raiders. Coltin Humphreys added nine.

Trimble, now 6-23 on the season, hosts Crothersville on Friday in its final regular-season game. The Raiders then play Carroll County in the opening round of the 31st District Tournament at Carroll on Monday.

CARROLL BOYS CLAIM WIN

Carroll County's boys basketball team defeated Whitefield Academy 63-36 on the road on Tuesday.

Carroll, now 11-15 on the season, hosted Williamstown on Thursday in its final regular-season game. The Panthers will then host Trimble County on Monday in the opening round of the 31st District Tournament at Carrollton.

WARD

FROM **PAGE B1**

24 points in the second half. His driving scoop as he was fouled with 53 seconds left, followed by his pullup jumper on the baseline with 13 seconds left, briefly gave the Wildcats a 74-73 lead.

"The last minute was not a work of art, but that's on me and the guys found a way to win anyway," McMahon said.

Kentucky closed the first half on a 12-1 run during which Reeves hit a 3 and fastbreak layup. Justin Edwards' 3 gave the Wildcats a 36-27 lead at the break.

Kentucky opened the second half with consecutive 3s by Edwards and Reeves to make it 42-27, but Derek Fountain's layup shortly after ignited a 21-4 LSU run that included consecutive 3s by Wright and ended with back-to-back layups by Reed and Hunter Dean to put the Tigers up 48-46.

Reed Sheppard interrupted the spurt with a layup while being fouled and completed the 3-point play, but the game was tight from

RECORD

FROM **PAGE B1**

Trinity Lutheran; they're athletic, they're fast, they play in your face. So we know what we have to work on. I thought we were in a good spot in the second quarter and we stopped rebounding basically in the third quarter. So we know we've got to work to do."

Ben Riehle scored 18 points and Gabe Riehle had 14 to lead Milan.

Shawe, now 9-14 overall, turns its attention to the sectional tournament. The Hilltoppers haven't won a sectional championship since 2011 but the team believes this could be the year to break the drought.

"It comes down to defense and rebounding. Tonight, we didn't do that," Kahn said. "But we'll work on it and come Tuesday, you'll see us playing defense and rebounding."

The Hilltoppers' Philip Kahn hit a runner in the lane for his 1,462nd career point to break Bob Wolf's 55-year-old career scoring record at Shawe in a 76-62 loss to the Indians on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Kahn, pictured earlier on the game, came in needing 14 points for the record, got the mark in the third quarter and ended the night with 20.

David Campbell

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Officials tour the turbine room at Palisades Nuclear Generating Station in southwest Michigan in 2022.
Don Campbell / The Herald-Palladium / Paxton Media Group

Federal money could supercharge state efforts to preserve nuclear power

By ALEX BROWN
Stateline.org (TNS)

Mark Ralston / AFP via Getty Images / TNS
An aerial view of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, which sits on the edge of the Pacific Ocean at Avila Beach in San Luis Obispo County, California, on March 17, 2011.

In the coming years, a nuclear power plant on the shores of Lake Michigan could become the first in the country to restart operations after shutting down.

The Palisades plant in southwest Michigan could be revived by a $1.5 billion loan from the U.S. Department of Energy, Bloomberg reported. Federal officials have not yet confirmed the funding, but Dr. Kathryn Huff, assistant secretary in the agency's Office of Nuclear Energy, told Stateline that it would be "exciting" and "historic" to see the plant return to life.

The potential federal investment comes as state leaders in Michigan and elsewhere have worked to preserve their nuclear power capacity. Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer successfully pushed for $150 million in state funding last year to support the Palisades restart. The plant is owned by Florida-based Holtec International, which bought it in 2022 to decommission it.

Reviving the plant "is really significant to make sure we can meet our clean-energy goals," said Kara Cook, chief of staff with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. "This is really important to us not only from a climate perspective, but also the economic impact on the region."

As states seek to transition to carbon-free electricity, some leaders acknowledge their climate change goals may be out of reach if they can't keep their nuclear plants online. Nuclear has struggled to compete on cost with other power sources – while also facing concerns about safety risks and radioactive waste – but it provides 18 percent of the nation's electricity. The closure of nuclear plants, some state officials fear, could lead to an expansion of fossil fuel-powered replacements, worsening the climate problem.

"You're starting to see a lot of states transition to a position where they're supportive of nuclear," said Todd Allen, chair of the Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences department at the University of Michigan. "And compared to 30 years ago, the amount of federal support for nuclear is unbelievable."

California also received a boost of federal money in an award finalized last month to keep open a nuclear plant run by Pacific Gas and Electric, known as PG&E. Other states, including Connecticut, Illinois and New Jersey, have passed legislation in recent years to provide subsidies for existing nuclear plants.

Huff, the federal energy official, said U.S. nuclear production may need to reach 200 gigawatts – roughly double the current capacity – to provide clean, "always-on" power as less-constant solar and wind provide a growing share of the nation's electricity. Last year, the Biden administration committed to an international pledge to triple nuclear capacity by 2050.

"We're still going to need a significant amount of nuclear to back that all up," she told Stateline. "Keeping existing plants online is the easiest way to ensure nuclear power can back up renewables."

Meanwhile, both red and blue states have taken steps to allow for the development of small modular reactors, an emerging technology that backers say can help to power rural areas or industrial operations without the demands of a large plant. Six states – Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Montana, West Virginia and Wisconsin – recently repealed bans on adding new nuclear power, in part to enable such reactors.

While some environmental groups have embraced the nuclear investments, others have pointed to long-standing concerns about safety issues, citing infamous accidents such as those at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima. Opponents also note the long-term issue of radioactive waste storage, and in some cases assert that nuclear can stall the growth of renewables such as wind and solar.

"With the amount of money that's gone into this (Palisades) restart scheme already, you could develop brand-new renewable energy proposals that would be online in the same time frame producing more electricity," said Kevin Kamps, radioactive waste specialist at Beyond Nuclear, an environmental nonprofit that opposes nuclear energy.

While more states have passed policies to give nuclear a boost, federal funding in Michigan and elsewhere could supercharge efforts to ensure plants stay open. The Department of Energy is distributing $6 billion from the federal infrastructure law to help save reactors that were slated for closure. The agency awarded funding to the California plant in the first round but has not yet announced awardees from the second round, although applications closed last May.

The agency also is overseeing a loan program – which reportedly will provide the Palisades funding – to repower or repurpose energy infrastructure.

The federal climate law passed in 2022 also opened tax credits for new and existing nuclear plants, designed to incentivize clean energy production in the same way existing credits support wind and solar. Since the passage of the tax credits, Huff said, federal regulators have seen an increased interest from plant operators pursuing license renewals to extend the operating life of their reactors.

Meanwhile, the CHIPS and Science Act passed by Congress also includes funding for federal nuclear research, university programs, new research reactors, isotope production and advanced reactors.

The federal support is providing "huge stimulation" to nuclear power while working in tandem with existing state efforts, said Christine Csizmadia, senior director of state governmental affairs and advocacy with the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry trade association.

Michigan reboot

When Palisades closed amid financial struggles in 2022, it represented roughly 5 percent of Michigan's electricity supply. That has been replaced largely with natural gas generation, Cook said. The expansion of fossil fuel-based power conflicts with legislation passed last year requiring the state to move to 100 percent clean energy by 2040.

So when the plant's new owner, Holtec International, announced that it was aiming to bringing the 800-megawatt plant back online, state leaders were on board. The company plans to add a pair of small modular reactors to the existing plant, bringing its capacity to 1,400 megawatts – enough to power more than a million homes. Holtec did not respond to interview requests, but company spokesperson Nick Culp told Reuters the company expects the plant to have full power operation by the end of 2025.

The $150 million in last year's Michigan state budget to support the plant's restart will help pay for fuel purchases and infrastructure upgrades, Cook said. Whitmer has requested an additional $150 million in this year's budget to help bring Palisades online.

"This is really an all-hands-on-deck approach," said Cook, citing the hundreds of union jobs that could return to the region if the plant reopens. She said the state funding was critical to show both Holtec and federal officials that there was strong support in Michigan to save Palisades. Holtec has said it could employ about 520 people at the plant.

States' support

In recent years, many states have provided financial support to struggling nuclear plants, made nuclear eligible for clean energy credits or repealed long-standing bans on the construction of new reactors.

"We've seen this incredible uptick of nuclear energy legislation," said Csizmadia, with the nuclear trade association.

Huff, the federal official, noted that several of the states that recently repealed bans on new nuclear power have many coal-dependent communities that could be "left behind" if their coal plants retire. Backers of nuclear, especially the emerging small modular reactor technology, believe old coal plants could be revived to put existing infrastructure to use in service of nuclear power and bring back high-wage jobs.

Nuclear electricity production across the country has been relatively stagnant for two decades, with plants struggling to compete with lower-cost options such as natural gas. Construction of new reactors has almost completely stopped amid regulatory hurdles and spiking project costs.

Opponents of nuclear point to the canceled projects, delays and cost overruns as proof that nuclear isn't viable.

"This is just throwing good money after bad," said Kamps, the anti-nuclear advocate. "We stand horrified at the actions being taken by Congress and certain state governments."

Kamps also cited previous nuclear disasters and warned of the risks of extending aging plants.

But as states look to clean up their energy grids, some leaders say they can't afford to lose their nuclear power.

"A lot of people believe we can power California with renewables alone and batteries," said Carl Wurtz, executive director of Fission Transition, a pro-nuclear advocacy group. "We're going to be tied to natural gas indefinitely if we try to do it that way."

Wurtz was among the advocates who pushed California to extend the life of PG&E's Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, which had been scheduled to close in 2025. He and others argued that the loss of the plant's 2,240 megawatts – 9 percent of California's electricity – would force the state to import more power generated from fossil fuels.

As with the Michigan plant, state leaders in California, including Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, successfully lobbied the feds for money to keep Diablo Canyon open. Last month, the Department of Energy finalized a $1.1 billion payout to extend the plant's operations. That followed a vote from state regulators to push the plant's shutdown date back to 2030.

Supporters of nuclear say it's a necessary complement to wind and solar because of the reliability it provides.

"We need baseload power that runs 24/7," said Lisa Marshall, vice president of the American Nuclear Society and assistant extension professor with the North Carolina State University Department of Nuclear Engineering. "If we're going to make (carbon-free electricity) happen, nuclear has to be part of that mix."

The California plant is still awaiting the renewal of its license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. PG&E did not respond to an interview request.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Frank Micelotta / Getty Images / TNS

James Brown

Funk, trading stamps, live album, arrests all covered in A&E doc

By RODNEY HO
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (TNS)

James Brown was more than a captivating, gutsy, groundbreaking musician. He was an entrepreneur, a civil rights activist and an inspiration for millions.

The longtime Augusta resident was also deeply flawed, a man who was built on personal and societal trauma, battled drugs and the IRS and ended up in prison twice.

Seventeen years after Brown's death at age 73, Atlanta filmmaker and director Deborah Riley Draper crystallized the many facets of the legendary singer into a four-part documentary on A&E called "James Brown: Say It Loud," which aired over two nights on Monday and Tuesday.

"He liberated the thinking of people who were oppressed," Draper said in an interview Monday with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "He made people want to dream."

Mick Jagger and Questlove, huge James Brown fans, served as executive producers on the project. They, along with the likes of LL Cool J, Chuck D, Atlanta producer Dallas Austin and Rev. Al Sharpton, voiced their admiration for Brown's innovation, resilience and self-determination.

"James Brown is a reflection of the Black experience in the context of the United States of America," said David Wall Rice, professor of psychology at Morehouse University in the opening minutes of the special. "That's why James Brown's story is an American story."

The documentary features three of Brown's children, his former tour manager and musicians who worked with him, such as Bootsy Collins and Martha High.

Both Deanna and Dr. Yamma Brown, his daughters, talked to Draper about the good times as well as how he would physically abuse their mom.

"I thought it was critically important that Deanna and Yamma set the record straight on who he was in their own words with clarity and authenticity," Draper said.

At the same time, she added, "Their love for their dad is incredible. I love the fact they have continued his legacy through the James Brown Academy of Musik Pupils in Augusta to train young kids to love music and share their gifts the way their father did."

Draper dug through hours of interviews and never-before-heard studio outtakes of Brown and used his voice to frame the narrative. Brown at one point distilled his philosophy into four words: "Be like nobody else."

Besides inventing funk, he was an early adherent of the live album. His 1963 "Live at the Apollo" LP was his first smash album and greatly expanded his fan base. He surrounded himself with a coterie of talented musicians, a system of sorts which Prince copied in the 1980s. He was able to make political statements as well as turn on the "Sex Machine" when the mood struck him.

What Draper admired was his consistency through the decades, primarily his push for Black folks to be independent and to carve their own path in the face of resistance. His one regret was dropping out of school early, she said.

"He firmly believed in education," she said. "That's why he dropped a track, 'Don't be a Dropout.' He understood part of his deficit was his seventh-grade education. As confident as he was in business dealings, he couldn't always protect himself or his brand from bad accountants and finance managers."

While doing her research, Draper found a 1969 Look magazine profile that asked a provocative question: "Is James Brown the most important Black person in America?"

"That made it clear to me that there was more to Brown than his music," Draper said.

This was a year after his incredible Boston concert the night Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. It aired live on Boston TV and through his words and actions, he helped prevent Black people in that city from rioting the way they did in other cities.

He was one of the first Black entertainers to fly private jets and own multiple businesses including restaurants and radio stations. For a time, he even launched his own James Brown trading stamps, which Black businesses could redeem. "It was the Black cryptocurrency of the 1960s," Riley said. "I couldn't believe he did that. They are now in museums and people sell them on eBay."

Brown's quixotic embrace of Richard Nixon, who promised to help Brown build Black entrepreneurship, was viewed at the time as terrible optics, but Draper said it showed his power to be able to enter the White House "and speak his piece" to Nixon's face.

What she admired the most about Brown was his tenet "Say it loud," which is why she included it in the documentary title.

"He reminded us that we all have a voice," she said. "We should speak our minds and be strong in our convictions about what's right. People may want to dismiss us but we won't be dismissed. That's the lesson from James Brown from heaven to me."

The fourth episode explores Brown's influence on hip-hop. He has been sampled tens of thousands of times. Many key early hip-hop records featuring his beats include LL Cool J's "Mama Said Knock You Out," Public Enemy's "Fight the Power," Run DMC's "Run's House" and "I Ain't No Joke" by Eric B. & Rakim.

"I think James Brown really was the architect of hip-hop," said producer Jimmy Jam in the episode. 'Hip-hop was built on those grooves."

"We stand on James Brown's shoulders," said LL Cool J in the doc.

One Brown sample Draper wasn't even aware of until she did the documentary: the silky, sexy Janet Jackson 1993 hit "That's the Way Love Goes" uses parts of "Papa Don't Take No Mess."

'That's one of my favorite songs in the world!" Draper said.

A&E last week held a premiere of the documentary at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, where Brown performed many times over the decades. In 1968, Draper's mother Janette Coleman Riley traveled from Savannah to New York City to see Brown at that theater with Draper's aunt Hazel Coleman. Her mom raved about that experience until her death in 2008.

"Being in that same building 50-plus years later was pretty crazy and surreal," Draper said "I know my mom and aunt were up there dancing with James Brown. Everybody in the house could feel the energy. Even people like Al Sharpton and Deanna and Yamma felt we provided a different lens to James Brown. It made them feel good."

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Dune: Part Two’: Vision of Arrakis continues to work on a massive scale

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

Niko Tavernise / Warner Bros. / TNS

Timothee Chalamet, left, and Zendaya in “Dune: Part Two.”

For starters, I can’t believe director Denis Villeneuve pulled off the big scene in “Dune: Part Two” in which Timothée Chalamet learns to ride the world’s largest pool noodle.

True, the story of “Dune” offers some built-in possibilities for success with such a potentially ridiculous scene. This two-hour, 46-minute continuation of the 2021 “Dune” is the sandiest movie since “Lawrence of Arabia.” This means whirlwinds and sandstorms worthy of Frank Herbert’s massive hunk of trippy science-fiction lit, which in turn means lots of dramatic visual texture – all the better to disguise as well as complement the sequel’s extraordinarily sophisticated blend of digital and practical design elements.

As the budding anti-colonialist revolutionary Paul Atreides, Chalamet risks life, limb and career embarrassment, faking like he’s getting his balance against considerable headwinds and near-zero visibility atop a particularly gargantuan sandworm on the move. He’s clobbered with everything the sound designer, the composer, the editor, the cinematographer and the effects armies have created, and it’s chaotic bordering on “Wait, what am I looking at?”

And then a smile comes over your face because the scene is actually working, and you believe it. There are many flights of fancy in director David Lynch’s certifiably insane 1984 “Dune,” but in that one, the “ride ’em, wormboy!” scene does not work. This one works, because Villeneuve and his tiptop digital and practical design wizards are the best we have working in modern movies.

But these first two “Dune” films really are gorgeous. They don’t look or behave like any comparable, massively budgeted contemporary studio enterprise, whether it’s a Marvel or a “Star Wars” derivative.

Now: Is “Dune: Part Two” my thing? Does the bloody fall of House Atreides and the vengeful rise of messiah-in-training Paul Atreides, played by Chalamet; the battle for domination over the spice harvesting business on the desert planet Arrakis; and the machinations of the emperor of the universe (Christopher Walken, but of course we knew that already) and his daughter Princess Irulan (Florence Pugh) amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world? And what about the political and romantic alliance between Paul and Chani, the fierce Fremen warrior fighting for her people? Chani is once again played by Zendaya, who actually has things to do and say in “Dune: Part Two.” Javier Bardem returns, too, with an expanded presence, as Fremen leader Stilgar, heading the revolt against the invading Harkonnen.

With a different filmmaker I’d say no, not my space jam. I read the first “Dune” novel only in prep for the 2021 film, and I fought it most of the way. But director and co-writer Villeneuve, whose previous works include, on the high end, “Incendies” (2010) and “Arrival” (2016), uses the screen to imagine technological and otherworldly amazements, and treat them matter-of-factly. A movie can strip source material for parts, and its own needs, and still capture its essence. When the dragonfly-styled helicopters known as ornithopters reappear for duty in “Dune: Part Two,” they’re just as terrific as they were in “Dune: Part One.”

The sequel features more and larger battles and mayhem, though it also features lots of murmuring strategy in extremely dark corridors. Among the new wrinkles: There’s an old-school scene of Austin Butler’s Feyd-Rautha, the nephew of the unsightly Baron Harkonnen (Stellan Skarsgard), in gladitorial-style combat against three surviving Atreides soldiers. It’s part of a section in the movie depicted in monochrome black-and-white. That’s life under a black sun – a cinematographer’s dream! (The inspired Greig Fraser returns as director of photography on “Dune: Part Two,” along with all the other key visual collaborators from the 2021 success.)

Take away all the larger power plays, and at heart the movie is a study in how the younger generation, nearly 11,000 years in the future, is still learning to maneuver around their know-it-all elders. Like Zendaya, Rebecca Ferguson enjoys a larger share of the storyline this time. As Lady Jessica, the now-widowed pregnant mother of Paul, she communicates telepathically with her newborn daughter while movin’ on up to the Bene Gesserit order of mystics who foresaw Paul’s destiny before anyone else in the universe. She’s pushing her kid to fulfill that destiny; meantime the oil-slicked blob Baron Harkonnen sees in his nephew (Butler) a bloodthirsty psychotic – we know this because on first reference, someone says “he’s psychotic” – and the logical heir to his corner of the universe.

This isn’t Butler’s biggest screen role to date, but it’s his most effective by a long shot, and he gives the sludgier passages of “Dune: Part Two” a needed jolt. Also, it’s very gratifying for a film so dependent on digital effects to lean into more traditional methods for a first-rate duel between Feyd-Rautha and Paul, staged, edited and executed like something out of Act 5 of “Hamlet.”

What we have here, in the end, doesn’t end anything – no film in which the last lines include “the holy war begins!” could pretend otherwise. This is a middle-chapter installment, landing on the same note of “to be continued, if business is good” as the previous “Dune.” What Villeneuve and company achieve in “Dune: Part Two” is every bit as impressive and, in its peak imagery, hypnotic as “Part One.” And, yes, frustrating. Even fans have to concede that Villeneuve’s facility for cinematic movement has its limitations (glaring in the dull finale of “Blade Runner 2049,” for example).

So “Dune: Part Two” is not a zingy marvel of narrative momentum. But it’s not trying for that. Rewatching the 2021 movie earlier this week reminded me of just how much of an aesthetic outlier Villeneuve is these days. He shows us sights to behold, truly and consistently. As for Chalamet, he remains effective in his murmuring-brook way. It’s a mite low-key for the character’s circumstances, as well as for the movie’s massivity. On the other hand, he’s easy to take, and the “Boy from the Outer World” has a lot on his mind, which is plagued by horrifying psychic visions of what’s to come if “Dune 3” gets the go-ahead.

‘Dune: Part Two’

★★★

MPA rating: PG-13 (for sequences of strong violence, some suggestive material and brief strong language)

Running time: 2:46

How to watch: In theaters

TV REVIEWS

Jennifer Lopez musical fails to make ‘Lemonade’

By NEAL JUSTIN
Star Tribune (TNS)

Courtesy of Prime

Jennifer Lopez stars in “This Is Me... Now.”

Jennifer Lopez isn’t known for taking chances. Most of her rom-coms are as commercial as Hershey’s Kisses. Her most provocative pop song is about her caboose. So give the superstar credit for being bold in her latest screen project, “This Is Me... Now,” streaming on Prime Video. The musical, which consists of tracks from an album with the same title, is loosely based on the artist’s personal romantic life, sending up the fact that she’s been married four times (current husband Ben Affleck makes a cameo, as do Jane Fonda, Trevor Noah and Fat Joe).

When she’s not promoting the new tunes, Lopez’s character, known simply as the Artist, discovers she has to love herself before she can love another. But that life lesson takes a back seat to elaborate musical numbers that aren’t as cheesy or as clever as the MTV videos of the 1980s. The exception: an elegant homage to “Singin’ in the Rain” in which Lopez proves she doesn’t need a bevy of backup dancers to keep us mesmerized.

Lopez is clearly trying to copy the success of Beyoncé’s “Lemonade.” Both films deal with the challenges of matrimony, but Queen Bey’s 2016 masterpiece had richer material and snappier choreography. In comparison, “This Is Me” comes across like flavored water.

Also this week ...

‘Rory Scovel: Religion, Sex and a Few Things in Between’

The latest stand-up special shot in Minneapolis features this subversive comic toying with a Cowles Center crowd during sets last November. Scovel specializes in pointing out comedy conventions and then twisting them in a knot. (“I do a lot of Seinfeld stuff,” he jokes before breaking every rule Jerry Seinfeld sets for himself.) The material, which includes barbs at churchgoers and defending infidelity, can be just as edgy as his style. Thursday, Max

‘George Jones: Still Playin’ Possum’

If you want to learn more about Jones, check out Showtime’s “George & Tammy,” with Michael Shannon perfectly capturing the late legend’s complex personality. But if all you care about is the music, then this tribute concert is meant for you. Travis Tritt, Tanya Tucker and Wynonna belt out the classics, but it’s 88-year-old Sam Moore who steals the show with a subdued version of “The Blues Man.” 10 p.m. ET Friday, PBS

‘Becoming King’

When Daniel Oyelowo won the role of Martin Luther King Jr. in “Selma,” his wife, Jessica Oyelowo, began documenting his preparation. The result is a must-see film for anyone fascinated by the acting process. The camera follows the Oscar-nominated actor over the course of several years as he watches video, fattens up on fried food and visits the South, all so he can perfect the role of a lifetime. “Becoming King” never ignores the civil rights leader but it ends up primarily being a tribute to the working actor. Paramount+

‘Players’

In this amateur-league comedy, a New York sportswriter (Gina Rodriguez) and her immature friends treat dating like an athletic contest, conjuring up elaborate strategies to score. Some of the barroom schemes are fairly clever but the film loses its zip once Rodriguez’s character decides to grow up and settle down. Rodriquez’s feisty performance makes this tolerable, but her primary co-star, the usually reliable Damon Wayans Jr., manages to get through the entire movie without a single funny line. Netflix

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MOVIE REVIEW

With misguided focus, ‘Ordinary Angels’ far from extraordinary

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service (TNS)

While the “faith-based film” has evolved over the years, there’s one tried-and-true formula this particular type of movie can’t quit: an improbable true story about a sick child in a perilous situation starring a popular actress (see: Jennifer Garner in “Miracles From Heaven”; Chrissy Metz in “Breakthrough”). In this kind of film, the drama remains focused on human kindness and community rather than specific beliefs. Religious organizations offer emotional and material support to the characters, but mainly exist in the background, so the message is not overly preachy. But one would have to be a monster to resist the heartstrings-pulling power of a vulnerable child in a truly heinous scenario.

‘Ordinary Angels’

★★

MPA rating: PG (for thematic content, brief bloody images and smoking)

Running time: 1:57

How to watch: In theaters Friday

In “Ordinary Angels,” directed by Jon Gunn, the director of 2017’s “The Case for Christ” and producer of 2023’s “Jesus Revolution,” it’s faith in humanity that comes to the fore, though a church parking lot does play a pivotal role in this adaptation of the true story of young Michelle Schmitt, who was once known as the “Snow Baby of Louisville.”

But before we get to the snow, we’ve got to get to know hairdresser Sharon Stevens, played by two-time Oscar winner Hilary Swank. She wrote a memoir titled “Ordinary Angels” about her life and about Michelle, and Kelly Fremon Craig (“Are You There God? It’s Me Margaret.”) and Meg Tilly wrote the screenplay. Though little Michelle’s incredible journey offers the climax of the movie, it’s Sharon’s redemption tale that offers the dramatic arc of the feature film.

We meet Sharon as she’s slamming down shots and dancing on a bar top in 1993 Louisville, Kentucky, where her hair is the only thing reaching for the heavens. After one too many nights of hard drinking, her friend Rose (Tamala Jones) dumps Sharon at an AA meeting, where sobriety doesn’t take, but the exhortation to “find a reason” does. While picking up a six-pack, Sharon notices a newspaper headline about a little girl who has lost her mother and desperately needs a liver transplant. She becomes obsessively, almost strangely fixated on how she can help Michelle Schmitt, showing up unannounced at her mother’s funeral service and bossily inserting herself into the young girl’s life, much to the consternation of Michelle’s stern roofer father Ed (Alan Ritchson).

Swank is doing a sort of “Erin Brockovich” thing here, powering through the world with big hair, higher heels and sheer audacity. For much of the film, you will simply be mystified as to why this woman is so taken with Michelle’s plight – her behavior is frankly odd and the character proudly has no boundaries.

Fremon Craig and Tilly’s script holds back certain aspects of her backstory to use later as reveals or points of conflict, but it doesn’t help us to go along with her emotional journey, as it just seems bizarre that she shows up on the Schmitt’s doorstep and insinuates herself into their financial situation, fundraising for Michelle’s medical bills. Ritchson delivers the only authentic performance for the situation as the befuddled Ed, who objects to Sharon’s constant meddling, though he can’t turn up his nose at the money and favors she pulls with her bulldog determination.

Gunn goes for a gritty, dim look to give the film the air of authentic social realism. Cinematographer Maya Bankovic shoots hospital corridors in low light, criss-crossed with Venetian blinds, and honky-tonks are bathed in devilish red gels. There are some legitimately beautiful shots in the film: Ed silhouetted against the fading light as he works on a rooftop; the piercing of headlights through a blizzard.

Swank is appealing, and amusing, decked out in fringe and affecting a twang, but it in no way feels real; it’s more of a fun character performance. Ritchson, on the other hand, demonstrates a softer, more expansive side to the tough guy persona he’s perfected on “Reacher,” and even though it’s clear he can stretch farther than what he can do here, it’s nice to see him being cast in heftier roles.

Where “Ordinary Angels” stumbles is taking one unique human interest story from 1994 – in which Louisville rallied around Michelle Schmitt to help get her to an awaiting liver transplant during a raging blizzard – and making it instead the story of one woman, Sharon. The character’s motivations don’t gel, and no amount of Swank moxie can make it work. The true story is an inspiring tale of community care and mutual aid, the kind of thing that feels rare, and rarely celebrated, these days, but as usual, real life is more affecting, more nuanced, and yes, stranger than fiction. This may be a tale of “Ordinary Angels,” but unfortunately, the film itself is far from extraordinary.

Allen Fraser / Lionsgate / TNS

Hilary Swank, left, and Alan Ritchson in “Ordinary Angels.”